

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 5 – Watching For The Lamb

October 7, 2025

“REMEMBERING OCTOBER 7, 2023”

We have been studying the “one story” of Scripture from the book of Genesis through to the book of Revelation. We are learning that the book of Genesis provides us with the key to what God is planning FOREVER!!! And, we are understanding as we read the Bible, HOW GOD is going to accomplish His purposes! In Genesis we read of the promises God made to Abraham and his descendants!

When we turn from the last book in the Hebrew Scriptures, Malachi...to the first book in the New Testament, Matthew...we’re reading the continuation of the one story...from creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. And the one story speaks of the Lamb of God! When we turn from the book of Malachi, a Jewish prophet, to the book of Matthew in the New Testament – this is nothing new!!!

The entire Bible tells us the story of the Lamb of God!

The Jewish people knew about the sacrificial lamb of God! God gave them the sacrificial system to atone for their sins!

Malachi 4:2, 4-6 – *The Sun of Righteousness* (the Messiah) *shall arise with healing in His wings.* Elijah ministered during a time of crisis in Israel. And, now God is warning Israel in the last book of the Hebrew Scriptures - to turn to the God of their fathers...to repent (to change their mind) lest God strike the earth with a curse! This is the last verse in the Hebrew Scriptures. Continuing on into the book of Matthew is God’s provision for redemption....

Matthew 1:1 - *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham!*

In Matt. 3 Jesus prepared to announce Himself to Israel. In Matt. 3:5-6 we read that all Jerusalem, and Judea, and all the region around Jordan went to the Jordan River to hear John the Immerser...and to confess their sins (Matt. 3:6). Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God called upon the nation of Israel to repent, to return to Him (Jer. 3:6-7; Isa. 1:18; Isa. 55:6-7....).

And then Jesus came (Matt. 3:13). Jesus walked from Nazareth in Galilee to the Jordan River – a walk of 60+ miles. When John saw Jesus, he proclaimed...*Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.* (John 1:29)

What do these words mean to us – we who live in AZ in 2025? What does a Lamb mean to us in Western civilization?

Do we ever ask ourselves - 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?

If you were Jewish in Jesus’ day and you heard John make this declaration as he pointed to Jesus... YOU KNEW! The Jewish read about the lamb in the scrolls. If you were Jewish, your ancestors passed along the story of the lamb. God promised the Jewish people a Lamb and that HE, GOD, would be the Lamb. They knew THE lamb would be sacrificed...a blood sacrifice for the redemption of sin.

As we see Scripture unfold for us – as we read the true accounts in the Bible, we see. . .

- A lamb for a person
- a lamb for a family
- a lamb for a nation
- a lamb for the world
- and a lamb for ETERNITY

Where does God first introduce the Lamb? In Genesis 22 - God introduces a lamb. This lamb is for a PERSON.

In Genesis 22, the Akedah, “the binding” of Isaac...we read that *God tested Abraham, to prove Abraham’s faith.* God was PROVING Abraham’s heart – Abraham’s TRUST/Abraham’s FAITH in God. In Gen. 22, which is read in synagogues at Rosh Hashanah, we have the account of how far Abraham could trust God.

Gen. 22:2 - *Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.* Immediately Abraham responded... ³ *So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.* After waiting for perhaps 25 years or more for the son of promise, God told Abraham to kill THIS SON? Abraham obeyed while his heart ached! This was the greatest test to which Abraham’s faith had been subjected.

Gen. 22:4-5 - *Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.* ⁵ *And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.’*

What produced such obedience on Abraham’s part?

Heb. 11:17-19 - *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,* ¹⁸ *of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’* ¹⁹ *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead,*

Abraham believed that the God Who promised to make a great nation of Abraham and his descendants – Who promised Abraham and his descendants land – Who promised to make Abraham and his descendants an instrument of blessing for the WORD – Who told Abraham that Isaac would be the son through whom all God’s promises made to Abraham would come!!! Abraham KNEW that this GREAT GOD was faithful and would RAISE Isaac from the dead – because there was no other way that God could fulfill His promise. AND GOD IS FAITHFUL!

Gen. 22:6-8 - *So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.* ⁷ *But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’* ⁸ *And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide HIMSELF the lamb for a burnt offering.’ So the two of them went together.*

God promised a Lamb. . .that HE, GOD, would be the lamb who would be the sacrifice for sin. And this lamb would die in Isaac's place. The Lamb would be a SUBSTITUTIONARY sacrifice. And God led Abraham to the Mt. Moriah area where years later Solomon's temple would stand – adjacent to the hill where Jesus would be sacrificed.

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Gen. 22:9-14 - *Then they came to the place of which God had told him. 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. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.' ¹² 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.' ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'* BUT - a ram takes Isaac's place on the altar!?? Where's the Lamb?

God was telling His people that He would provide a Lamb in the future. And that Lamb would be God Himself (Gen. 22:8).

The Jewish people knew that THE Lamb – the Lamb that would be sacrificed in their place - was PROMISED to them – to the Jewish people.

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.*

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!

The "one story" in Scripture breaks down any walls between Jewish people and Gentiles. Through the Jewish Messiah we have been brought together. Are we accepting this truth?

Rom. 15:8-12 – ‘Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: ‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.’ ¹⁰ And again he says: ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!’ ¹¹ And again: ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!’ ¹² And again, Isaiah says:

‘There shall be a root of Jesse (the descendant through King David son of Jesse; this descendant is Jesus); and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, (He Who was the King of Israel at His first coming) in Him the Gentiles shall hope.’

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God PROMISED the MESSIAH to the Jewish people.

And, what of the Gentiles? We who are Gentiles have been grafted into “the blessing promise” God made to Abraham - that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith – salvation! (Gal. 3:14)

QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What are your questions? What are you pondering?

How is the Lamb for eternity impacting you?

What is Paul stating in Rom. 15:8-12?

How is God impacting you? Are you MARVELING at Him?

How can we come alongside our Jewish friends, neighbors, acquaintances?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 5 with the Bible references

Share this lesson with a Jewish person and a Gentile.

Invite a Jewish friend to the October 9th remembrance of 10/7/23.

Read Week 6 when you receive it.