

This week we want to continue down the road from eternity to the empty tomb. The goal is that we gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the life of Jesus and what He accomplished for us.

In the Gospel of John we find a unique description of Jesus. This description is not found in the other 3 gospels. It is the description, "The Lamb of God". In order for us to understand the scope of this description or title of Jesus we must examine some Old Testament passages. I have selected three for us to consider this week.

In each of these passages we will come to see incredible things about Jesus. Remember that the Old Testament is full of allusions to and pictures of Christ; many of the rituals and other customs are foreshadows of God's work through the life and death of Jesus.

As you study these verses this week, be reminded of how awesome God is. It is clear His plan from the beginning was for Jesus to take on the form of a man and become a servant to take away our sins! Rejoice in His plan as you look at HIStory played out.

May God richly bless you this week as you study His word and apply it to your life!

*"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
John 1:29*

SECTION 1

Read Genesis 22:1-14

For background read Gen. 15:1-6 and Gen. 17:1-22.

1. What is the significance of God's command to Abraham as related to the background verses you read?

Could there be connection between the fact that Isaac was Abraham's only son and Jesus called God's only Son? If so, what?

2. Verse 3 says that Abraham obeyed God's command and set out on the journey. Put yourself in his place for a moment. He knows God has said that He will confirm an everlasting covenant with Isaac and his offspring (Gen. 17:19). Now God says to offer him as a burnt sacrifice. This must have been confusing yet Abraham obeyed. Have you ever experienced God telling you something that seemed confusing yet you were obedient anyway?

3. Abraham is asked by Isaac about the sacrificial lamb in verse 7. What was Abraham's response?

4. Abraham's faith in God was strong. Why?

5. Abraham's willingness to follow the command of God even when it seemed totally illogical brought about incredible blessing from God. Not only that but God did in fact provide the sacrifice.

Notice though that the sacrifice is not the same as what Abraham said God would provide. In verse 8 he said God would provide a lamb yet we see in verse 13 God provided a ram. The ram was a substitute for Isaac - it was offered in place of Isaac.

The Lamb of which Abraham spoke *prophetically* would be offered for the sins of the world.

What does this story teach you about God's provision for you daily and His provision for you eternally?

SECTION 2

Read Isaiah 53

This is one of the richest passages of prophecy in the Old Testament. It is very easy to see Jesus in these verses because of what we know about his life, death and resurrection. Below write down at least

5 significant things (to you) about the description of the Lamb. What difference do they make in how you live your life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

SECTION 3

Read Exodus 12:1-28

1. The people of Israel were in bondage / slavery in Egypt. Once again God instructs the people to sacrifice a lamb. This time they were to apply the blood to the door posts and eat the meat of the lamb. Fast forward for just a moment and consider what Jesus told the people who were following Him in John 6:22-58. Do you see any connection to what he said and what God told the people to do during Passover?

What does it mean for us to “eat the flesh” and “drink the blood” of Christ?

2. The result of following God’s instructions during the Passover in Egypt was deliverance from the death angel AND slavery.

How do these 2 areas of deliverance apply to you? How are you living out those truths?

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is the proclamation of John the Baptist in John 1:29. In that simple title John says a lot about Jesus.

Jesus, the Lamb, is our substitute. He stands in our place of judgment and takes our penalty Himself. We are all born sinners who are enemies of God. The penalty for sin is death and it is inescapable. Jesus came and paid our death penalty so we could know God!

Jesus, the Lamb, is our deliverer. We are all slaves to sin and bond in the chains of rebellion against God. Jesus broke those chains and set us free when He willingly laid down His life on the Cross as the ultimate, perfect sacrifice.

As you think about this topic spend time thanking God for His incredible gift of grace through the sacrifice of Jesus. Without Him we would be totally and hopelessly lost destined for hell. Praise God, He sent His only Son to be the Lamb who takes away our sin!!