

THE LAMB ... whose story is everlasting
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Many magnificent themes are to be found within the Scriptures, but the greatest of them concerns the Lamb of God who came to redeem sinful people. That message never grows old!

The Lamb in God's planning (Rev. 13:8)

"The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." As we contemplate this immense subject, we resemble small children trying to understand the complexities of a computer. It is beyond comprehension that before time began the member\$ of the Trinity foresaw the need of sinful people and planned how that need should be met. He who placed the worlds in space would eventually come to earth to die for sinners.

The Lamb in God's provision (Gen. 3:21)

There was neither joy nor noise in the Garden of Eden; even the birds were silent! Adam and Eve had sinned. A temporary eclipse of their sun had plunged joyous spirits into gloom. The voice of God had struck terror to their souls, and the burden of guilt had become too heavy to carry. Bewildered, they fled from the presence of the Lord, only to discover they were unable to silence the murmurings of their conscience. Their garments had become transparent; they were naked! They became aware of an outstretched hand; God was offering a gift; it was a coat made from the skin of a sacrificed animal. It was almost too good to be true!

The Lamb with God's patriarch (Gen. 22:13)

Isaac was relieved and astonished. He could hardly believe his eyes! A few moments earlier Abraham had stretched forth his hand to slay his son, but then came the ominous command, "STOP!" "And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. " It was unbelievable. Possibly, as he returned to his home, Isaac continued to say, "That ram died in my place."

The Lamb with God's people (Exod. 12:13)

It was a night to be remembered. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, was furious; his subjects were apprehensive; his slaves were jubilant. Moses had confidently predicted their prison doors were about to open; their chains would soon belong to their past. They were to slay a lamb and if necessary share it with neighbors. The blood had to be placed on the doorposts and lintels of their houses, for that night the angel of God would be passing through the land. He would be looking for the scarlet symbol that reflected the faith of the people.

The Lamb with God's preacher (John 1:29)

The eyes of John the Baptist were glowing. He was looking at the Lamb of God. He had preached to large audiences and had known the compelling power of the Holy Spirit, but this sight superseded all else. His heart seemed to be bursting when he cried, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John saw beyond the narrow limitations of Israel's faith. This Lamb would be sufficient for every person on earth.

The Lamb in God's presentation (John 19:5-14)

Pilate was at a loss for words. What more could he say? He had said, "Behold the man" and "Behold your king," but the listeners had angrily rejected his presentations. Poor man! Had his soul been filled with faith, he could have emulated John's example and said, "Behold your Lamb. " Alas, he had neither faith nor hope. He could hardly present that of which he knew nothing. Yet in some

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mysterious way, God was doing what Pilate could not. He was
presenting the Lamb of God who was about to die for undeserving
people.

The Lamb in God's presence (Heb. 2:9)
Many of the early church members were dismayed; things were
not proceeding according to their plans. Saints were becoming
martyrs, and the future was ominous. What could they believe in
those distressing times? One of their number decided to tell them.
". . . but we see Jesus. " In so many words, he went on to say that
many things may be beyond our comprehension, but we can still
see our Savior interceding for us at the right hand of the Majesty
on high. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"
(Heb. 4:16).

The Lamb in God's palaces (Rev. 5:6)
John was very sad; a problem had arisen in heaven, and apparently
no person could solve it. Describing the scene, he said, "One of
the elders saith unto me, Weep not And I beheld, and, lo, in
the midst of the throne ... stood a Lamb as it had been slain And
I beheld, and I heard ... ten thousand times ten thousand, and
thousands of thousands, Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the
Lamb that was slain" (Rev. 5:5-12). From everlasting to everlasting,
God's delight was in the Lamb. Happy shall we be if we follow
the divine example.

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