

The Lamb of God

by Leroy Surface

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. With these words, John the Baptist introduced Jesus of Nazareth to the Jewish people. Under the Law of Moses, the blood of millions of lambs had been sacrificed, but there was never a lamb offered whose blood could *“take away sin,”* which is why there had to be *“the Lamb of God.”*

Jesus of Nazareth, whom the world believed to be the son of Joseph the carpenter, was actually the redeemer whom the prophets had promised would come. He was “the seed of the woman” whom God had promised to “bruise the head of the serpent” Genesis 3:15, who was also called the Devil. Four thousand years passed, and just as there was never a lamb out of the millions offered which could *“take away sin,”* so there was never a man found who could “bruise the head of the serpent.” Every person born into this world was born with a sinful nature, which was received from the serpent when Adam disobeyed God.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of “the seed of the woman” when he said, *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)”* Isaiah 7:14. The “seed of the woman” which would “bruise the head of the serpent,” could not have a human father, and His mother must be a virgin. Jesus was *“conceived of the Holy Ghost,”* and born to the Virgin Mary. He is the Son of God. There was no sin in his heart or nature, and His blood was *“holy blood,”* which could wash away sins. Revelation 1:5.

According to the Apostle Paul, the Son of God was *“made of a woman”* and *“made under the Law”* Galatians 4:4, but Christ had existed for eternity before the incarnation. The apostle John spoke of Him as *“The Word,”* writing, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* John 1:1-3. John then tells of the incarnation of Christ, saying, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”* John 1:14.

The reason for the incarnation is revealed by the apostle Paul who wrote, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me ...Lo, I come to do thy will, O God”* Hebrews 10:5-9. The *“will of God”* was to offer Himself, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, to *“take away the sin of the world.”*

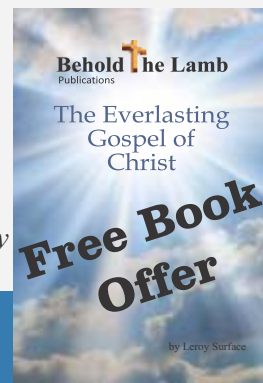
Perhaps you have been taught that *“sanctified”* means “set apart.” This has never been the proper meaning, however. In the Old Testament Hebrew, sanctified meant *“to make clean,”* while in the New Testament Greek, it means *“to make holy.”* No one can be biblically *“holy”* as long as sin remains in their heart.

“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:10

Keeping the Law of Moses perfectly was the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. The Law said, *“Thou shalt not commit adultery,”* but Jesus said, *“whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”* Matthew 5:27-28. This statement reveals why Jesus said, *“...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven”* Matthew 5:20. Without something which could wash sin from our heart, we would all be damned along with the self-righteous *“scribes and Pharisees.”*

God has always, since the beginning of time, forgiven the sins of those who repent and turn to Him. When God declared himself to Moses, He said, *“The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty”* Exodus 34:6-7. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah said, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* Isaiah 55:7.

Since both forgiveness and pardon were available to lost humanity before Jesus Christ came, we must ask, “So why did Jesus Christ die on the cross?” Remember, Jesus is *“the Lamb of God”* who offered His body and blood on the cross, to *“take away the sin of the world.”* If you are one who can believe this, He will actually take sin out of your heart, and His righteousness will fill the void. I have written many books to explain in detail all that Christ accomplished on the cross for you. Please let me begin to send them to you, one or two at a time, anywhere you are in the world, free of charge. Jesus said, *“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* John 8:32. If you believe *“the truth,”* you will live the rest of your life in *“righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”* Romans 14:17.



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