

Jesus Takes Away Our Sin

For fifteen hundred years, from the time of Moses till the time of Christ, two lambs were sacrificed every day for the sins of the people. According to the historian Josephus, over 250,000 lambs were slain every year at the Feast of Passover. This adds up to untold millions of lambs that were sacrificed under the Old Testament Law of Moses. Rivers of blood flowed from the temple down into the brook Kidron, until the waters would flow red with blood. All this was done year after year as a covering for the sins of the people. Yet, not one drop of blood was found which could cleanse the human heart. The New Testament writers state the obvious reason for this, saying, *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."* Hebrews 10:4. It was to accomplish what those sacrifices could never do that Christ came into the world, that is, *"to take away our sin."*

Since no earthly sacrifice could wash sin from the human heart, God purposed that Christ lay down his life to take away our sin. Yet, in order to die, Christ must have a body. The Bible says, *"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:"* Hebrews 10:5. He received that body when he was conceived in the womb of a virgin named Mary.

Christ, the creator of heaven and earth, is identified as *"The Word,"* who was *"with God,"* and *"was God."* The Bible tells us, *"the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."* This *"Word made flesh"* was Jesus, the firstborn son of Mary, who had *"conceived by the Holy Ghost."* The angels from heaven announced His birth to shepherds in the field, saying, *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11

The birth of Jesus created quite a stir in Bethlehem for a time. King Herod murdered all the children under two years of age, seeking to kill the child Jesus, whom the wise men had said was *"the King of the Jews."* The baby Jesus was rushed into Egypt to save His life, and later was returned to Nazareth, where He grew up with Joseph and His mother, Mary. He was a good child, whom the scripture says *"...increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man"* Luke 2:52.

The next we hear of Jesus is when He was about thirty years old and came to be baptized by John the Baptist. The Bible records, *"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon*

him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

It was the next day after seeing and hearing these things that John the Baptist began proclaiming Jesus to be *"The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* John 1:29. Remember the millions of Lambs which had been slaughtered in sacrifice during the hundreds of years under the Law of Moses. None of these could *"take away sin,"* but Jesus was declared to be *"the lamb of God."* This *"lamb"* would be sacrificed on a Roman cross, and His blood would be shed to *"take away the sin of the world."*

Notice the scripture speaks of *"the sin"* of the world.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

The Apostle Paul tells of how sin came into the world, writing, *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into*

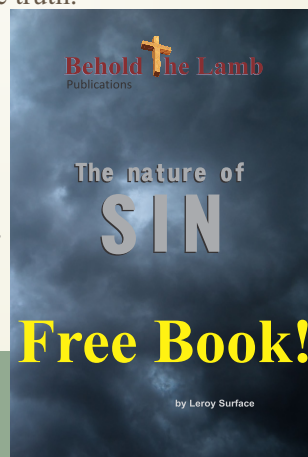
the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12

It is because of Adam's disobedience that every person is born into this world with a sin nature. This is *"the sin"* that came in through Adam, and it is also *"the sin"* Christ died to *"take away."* He takes it out of your heart. He takes it out of your nature.

The word of God reveals that Jesus Christ died as sort of a proxy. For us who believe upon him, his death became our death, and our death with him became God's way of taking away our sin. The Apostle Paul describes this, saying, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead (in union with Christ) is freed from sin."* Romans 6:6-7.

Christians around the world are told to confess daily *"We are all sinners; we sin every day; we will continue to sin as long as we live in this body of flesh."* This is not the truth of the gospel nor is it the biblical confession of those who are redeemed by Christ. The Apostle Paul told us to *"reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 6:10-11. This is what Christ has done for his people, and we must recognize in our own heart that it is the truth.

Almost seventy years after Christ died on the cross, the old apostle John confirmed these words of the apostle Paul, saying, *"Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not."* 1 John 3:5-6



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