



## **“The Lamb of God”**

### *Christmas Foretold: Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah’s Coming*

John 1:29-37

#### **Introduction: Series: Christmas Foretold: Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah’s Coming**

John 1:29 – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

#### **I. THE UNIQUE DECLARATION (John 1:29)**

##### **A. The Sacrificial Lamb in Jewish Thought**

The lamb is the most common symbol in Judaism for innocent sacrifice. In the Jewish mind-set, the life is in the blood and Holy God designed the bloody sacrifice —especially of a lamb—to satisfy the penalty for sin.

##### **B. The Sacrificial Lamb of God in Our Lives**

Hebrews 9:22 – “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

Isaiah 53:6 – “All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way. But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”

1 Peter 1:18-19 – “...knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

Hebrews 9:28 – “...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...”

1 John 2:2 – “...and He Himself is the propitiation (i.e. the satisfaction/the payment) for our sins...”

#### **II. THE UNDENIABLE PROOF (John 1:30-33)**

John 1:30-33 – “This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’”

The Jews of John’s day were not quite sure exactly what the Messiah would be like.

John 12:32-34 – “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. The multitude therefore answered Him, “We have heard out of the Law that the Christ (the Messiah) is to remain forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

Mark 9:31-32 – “For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, ‘The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.’ But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.”

Matthew 16:21-23 – “From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.’ But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.’”

Luke 24:21 – “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.”

The Messiah — the Lamb of God — would have to die in order to take away the sins of the world.

Revelation 5:12 – “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Revelation 5:13 – “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

### III. THE ULTIMATE RESPONSE (John 1:34-37)

John 1:34 – “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

#### **Personal Response #1: Look and see for yourself who the Lamb of God really is.**

So many people in the world have an incomplete view of Jesus...

**“Lord Jesus, if you are real, show me.”**

Jeremiah 29:13 – “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Matthew 7:7-8 – “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.”

“Lord Jesus, if you are real, show me. Open my eyes. Make me a truth-seeker. Help me to respond to the truth about who You really are. I pray in faith that You will not lead me astray.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

Titus 3:5 – “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...”

Matthew 16:16-17 – “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’”

“Lord Jesus. You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. I am a sinner. You bore my sin on the cross. You are the Lord. You raised from the dead. I receive you into my life as my Savior. I welcome you as my Lord. I trust in you alone for my salvation. Change my life as only You can. Thank you for making me a part of your forever family. I want to live for you. Lord Jesus, I pray this in the power of your name. Amen.”

## Personal Response #2: Go out and share with others who the Lamb of God really is.

John 1:34 – “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:35-37 – “Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.”

John 1:6-8 – “There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light.”

### 1. The immediate response of the shepherds

Luke 2:17-18 – “And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.”

### 2. The immediate response of Anna in the Temple

Luke 2:38 – “And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

## Concluding Challenge:

Revelation 7:17 – “...for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

“The reason we Christians are not in hell is because of God’s great grace, and the reason we are not already in heaven is because of God’s Great Commission.” (Pastor Ron Berrus, Bellefonte, PA)

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## “OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO THE CHRISTMAS LAMB”

“Lord, I ask that You open the heart of the following people and, by your grace, allow me the opportunity to share the good news concerning the Lamb of God with at least one of them this season.”

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## “Each One Win One”