

4. You See - They Had Some Great Expectations:
 - According To What They Had Been Taught:
 - From The Old Testament Scriptures!
 - And So:
 - They Were Looking For:
 - A Messiah / An Anointed One:
 - Who Would Come As:
 - Their Majestic Lord:
 - And Deliver Them From:
 - The Oppression Of The Romans!
 - And - They Were Looking For:
 - A Prophet:
 - Who Would Come As:
 - Their Mighty Leader:
 - Even As Moses Had Been:
 - To Restore The Glory Of The Kingdom Of Israel!
 - And - Isn't This Still:
 - What The World Is Looking For:
 - In Times Like These?
 - Who Will Be The One:
 - Who Will Stand Up To:
 - The Oppressors Of This World!
 - Who Will Be The One:
 - Who Will Be The Leader:
 - Who Will Finally Bring Peace:
 - In This World Of Conflict?
 - Well - When The Jewish Leaders:
 - Asked John - "Who Art Thou?"
 - They Were Probably Very Disappointed:
 - With His Answers!
 - He Told Them That:
 - He Was *Not*:
 - The Majestic Lord:
 - They Were Looking For!
 - He Was *Not* The Christ!
 - He Told Them That:
 - He Was *Not*:
 - The Mighty Leader:
 - They Were Hoping For!
 - He Was *Not* That Prophet!
5. But - Then - In The Plan Of God:
 - On The Second Day:
 - Of This Momentous Week:
 - Which We Find - Starting In 1:29 - We Are Told:
 - "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"
 - The Previous Day:
 - John Kept Deflecting:
 - The People's Attention:
 - Away From Himself!
 - But - On This Day:
 - John Was Given The Opportunity:
 - To Direct The People's Attention:
 - To A Man Who *Was* The One They Were Looking & Hoping For!
 - But - Instead Of Saying To Them:
 - "Behold!" - This Is Your Lord!
 - The Majestic Messiah!
 - And - Instead Of Saying:

- “Behold!” - This Is Your Leader!
- The Mighty Prophet!
- John The Baptist:
- Made A Startling Proclamation!

1. A Proclamation About The True Function Of Jesus!

- 1:29 - “Behold! This Is The Lamb Of God!”
- The Focus Of John The Baptist:
 - On **This** Day - Was **Not** On:
 - The Lordship Or The Leadership:
 - Of Jesus!
 - His Focus Was On:
 - Jesus As A Lamb:
 - Who Had Come To Solve:
 - Our Greatest Problem!
 - Because - Jesus Was:
 - “The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!”
 - **Sin** Is Our Greatest Problem! And So:
 - Our Greatest Need:
 - Is - First & Foremost:
 - A Savior!
 - Peace With & Between Men:
 - Is Not Our Greatest Need!
 - Not *Between* Countries - Or:
 - Even *Within* A Country!
 - No - Peace With God:
 - Is Our Greatest Need!
 - Because - Our Sin:
 - Has Gotten In The Way:
 - Of That Peace!
 - And - Only When There Is:
 - Peace With God:
 - Can There Ever Be:
 - Peace With Men!
 - And - This Is What Jesus Came To Provide!
 - But - **Not** First:
 - As A Majestic Lord - Or - As A Mighty Leader:
 - **But** As A Meek Lamb!
 - What Did John Mean:
 - When He Called Jesus - “The Lamb Of God”?
 - Well - I Believe We Can Trace His Meaning:
 - All Throughout The Old Testament!
 - Because - Lambs & Sheep:
 - Were So Often Used:
 - In Life & In Worship:
 - To Reveal The Solution:
 - To Our Greatest Problem!
 - In The Garden Of Eden:
 - God Gave Adam & Eve:
 - The *Skins* Of Animals - To Clothe Them - And:
 - To Provide The **Shield**:
 - They Needed:
 - Because Of Their Sin & Rebellion Against God!
 - In Genesis 3:21 - We Are Told That:
 - “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them!”
 - Now - Even Though We Are Not Told:
 - That The Skins Were From Lambs - It Seems Likely:
 - Because - Just A Few Verses Later:

- We Learn That Their Son Abel:
 - “Was A Keeper Of Sheep!” (4:2)
- So - God Made Clothes For Adam & Eve:
 - To Shield Them & To Cover Them:
 - Not Only From:
 - The Shame Of Their Sin!
 - But Also From:
 - The Harsh Consequences Of Their Sin - In A Fallen World!
 - But - Eventually:
 - Those Skins - Those Clothes:
 - Would Wear Out:
 - And Need To Be Replaced!
 - A Constant Reminder Of Their Need For A Lamb!
- After The Flood:
 - God Gave Noah And His Family:
 - The *Meat* Of Animals - To Feed Them - And:
 - To Provide The ***Sustenance***:
 - They Needed!
 - In Genesis 9:3 - The Lord Told Noah:
 - “Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things!”
 - And - Among Those Animals Were:
 - Of Course - Lambs & Sheep!
 - But - As We Know - All Too Well:
 - Even Meat Does Not Completely Satisfy!
 - Because - We Will Get Hungry!
 - Even Just Hours After We’ve Had A Good Meal!
 - Again - A Constant Reminder:
 - Of Our Need For Meat - And Even:
 - Our Need For A Lamb!
 - At The Time Of Israel’s Exodus:
 - From Egypt - God Gave His People:
 - The *Body* & The *Blood* Of Lambs:
 - To Provide The ***Sacrifice***:
 - They Needed - To Protect & Preserve Them:
 - On The Night Of The Tenth Plague In Egypt!
 - In Exodus 12:3 - The Lord Moses:
 - “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house!”
 - But - Not Just Any Lamb Would Do!
 - 12:5 - “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats!”
 - And - After Killing The Lamb - They Were To:
 - 12:7 - “Take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it!”
 - And - The Reason For This - God Gave:
 - In 12:13 - “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt!”
 - And - From That Time Forward:
 - Sacrifices Were To Be A Part Of:
 - The Every Day Life & Worship:
 - Of The Jewish People!
 - As A Reminder That:
 - They Always Needed:
 - A Lamb “Without Blemish & Without Spot!”
 - So - All Throughout The Old Testament:
 - Lambs Were In Constant Use:

- To Provide The:
 - Shield, Sustenance, And Sacrifice:
 - That The People Needed!
 - To Live & To Worship:
 - Before God!
- But - In Every Case:
 - The Use Of A Lamb:
 - Was Only Temporary!
- Because - The Death Of An Ordinary Lamb:
 - Could Never Take The Place:
 - Of The Death - You & I Deserve:
 - Because Of Our Sin!
- In Ezekiel 18:20 - We Are Told That:
 - “The Soul That Sinneth, It Shall Die!”
- And This Is Powerfully Depicted For Us:
 - In Genesis 22:2 - When God Came To Abraham:
 - And - “Said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of!”
 - And So - Off They Went - In Obedience To The Direct Command Of God!
 - But - When They Arrived At The Place:
 - 22:7-8 - “And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? / And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together!”
 - But - After The “Angel Of The Lord” Intervened:
 - Just As Abraham Was About:
 - To Sacrifice His Son:
 - In 22:13 - We Are Told - “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!”
 - God Gave Abraham:
 - An Animal To Be:
 - The **Substitute** They Needed:
 - For The Sacrifice!
 - But - What Kind Of Animal:
 - Did God Give Then?
 - **Not A Lamb - But A Ram!**
- And So - Through All Of These Events:
 - God Was Showing That:
 - There Was Still A Need:
 - For A Special **Lamb!**
 - To Be The Shield, Sustenance, Sacrifice, And Substitute:
 - That We Need:
 - To Save Us From Our Sin!
 - And - John The Baptist Understood:
 - That **Jesus** Was That Lamb!
 - 1:29 - “Behold The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!”
 - No Other Lamb Could Do:
 - What Jesus Came To Do!
 - No Other Lamb Could Provide:
 - What Jesus Came To Provide!
- And That Is Why:
 - You & I Must Still:
 - Listen To The Message Of John:
 - And - Behold & Look To:
 - The Lamb Of God!
 - Because Then - In 1:30-34 - John Supports & Confirms:

- His Testimony - With Some Proofs:
 - Of Jesus' True Function:
 - As The "Lamb Of God!"

2. ***The Proofs About The True Function Of Jesus!***

- Starting With - 1:30-31 - Where John Tells Us That:
 - Jesus Alone Can Fulfill His Function:
 - As "The Lamb Of God!" Because:
 - "This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. / And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water!"
 - Here - John Tells Us That **Jesus** Is:
 - The One Who Is Uniquely Anticipated:
 - From God!
 - He Is The One:
 - Who They Were Looking For!
 - In 1:30 - John The Baptist Makes The Statement:
 - That The Writer Of John:
 - Already Picked Up On:
 - And Told Us About:
 - Back In 1:15!
 - "This Is He Of Whom I Said!"
 - This Is The Special One / Man:
 - Whose Presence:
 - After Him - In No Way Detracted From:
 - His Position & Preeminence:
 - Over Him! And Over Us All!
 - **Jesus** Is The One:
 - Who You Need!
 - In 1:31 - John Also Describes:
 - The Special Manifestation:
 - Of This Man!
 - John Understood That His Number One Purpose:
 - Was To Make Jesus Known To His People!
 - But - Even Up Until:
 - The Time Jesus Was Baptized:
 - John Himself "Knew Him Not!"
 - Is It Possible That:
 - John Did Not Know His Own Cousin?
 - It Certainly *Is* Possible!
 - But - Even If John *Did* Know Jesus:
 - As His Cousin - He Did Not Yet Know Him:
 - As The Christ!
 - In Other Words:
 - The Testimony Of John The Baptist:
 - Was Impartial!
 - But - When Jesus Meet John:
 - In The Waters Of The Jordan River:
 - John Knew That Jesus Was:
 - The One Who Was Anticipated & Expected From God:
 - To Be "The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!"
 - How Did He Know This? Because, John Further Testified:
 - That Jesus Is:
 - The One Who Is Uniquely Anointed:
 - By God!
 - And - He Is The One:
 - Who **Could** Provide The Solution:

- For Our Greatest Need!
- In 1:32-33 - “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. / And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost!”
 - So - Once Again - John Tells Us That:
 - “I Knew Him Not!”
 - Until - Jesus Was Revealed To Him At His Baptism!
 - But - At That Time:
 - Jesus Was:
 - Anointed With The Holy Spirit:
 - This Too Is What:
 - God’s People Had Come To Expect!
 - Because - In Isaiah 11:1-2 - They Were Told:
 - “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: / And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD!”
 - And - This Is What John Saw!
 - Jesus Was Anointed With The Holy Spirit!
 - But - He Was Anointed With The Spirit - So That He Might:
 - Baptize With The Holy Spirit!
 - John Baptized With / In Water:
 - As A Symbol:
 - Of The Death:
 - That Comes From Sin!
 - And - A Picture Of:
 - What True Repentance Of Sin:
 - Looks Like!
 - An Embracing Of The Punishment & Death Our Sin Deserves!
 - But - This Is Only ½ Have Of Gospel Equation!
 - Jesus Came To:
 - Baptize With / In The Holy Spirit!
 - Because, As Jesus Said - 6:63 - “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life!”
 - Jesus Came To Bring Life:
 - As The Solution To Death:
 - Through The Power Of The Holy Spirit!
 - Jesus Came To Bring Righteousness:
 - As The Solution For Sin:
 - Through The Power Of The Holy Spirit!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - The Anointing Of Jesus - At The Baptism Of Jesus:
 - Is Further Proof That He Is:
 - “The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!”
 - But Even More - He Is:
- The One Who Is Uniquely Acquainted:
 - With God!
 - As We Find In John’s Concluding Remarks:
 - On This Second Day:
 - 1:34 - “And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God!”
 - The First Part Of This Verse:
 - John Presents His Testimony:
 - In A Formal Way!
 - **IE:** As If He Was On A Witness Stand In A Court Of Law!
 - “I Saw & I Bare Record!”
 - And - The Truth Of His Testimony:

- He Will Always Remember - And He Will Never Renounce!
- That - "This Is The Son Of God!"
 - The Son Of Abraham - Isaac:
 - Though He Was A Good & A Godly Man:
 - He Could Not Save Anyone From Their Sin!
- It Was - The Son Of God Alone:
 - Who Could Provide The Substitutionary Sacrifice Needed:
 - To Save Us:
 - From Our Sin!
- Jesus Is The **Lamb** Of God:
 - Because Jesus Is The **Son** Of God!
 - And - This Is Why We Must Still:
 - Listen To The Message Of John:
 - And - Behold & Look To:
 - Jesus - As The "Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!"

Conclusion:

1. Of Course - This First & Foremost:
 - Applies To Your Need:
 - Of Salvation!
 - You Don't Need Something:
 - Just To **Cover** Your Sin:
 - Like The Skins Of A Lamb:
 - Provided To Adam & Eve!
 - You Need Someone:
 - To **Cleanse** You From Your Sin!
 - You Need "The Lamb Of God!"
 - Who Can "Take Away" Your Sin!
 - This Has Been True:
 - Since The Beginning! Which Is Why:
 - Even In Isaiah 45:22 - The Lord Calls On You To:
 - "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else!"
 - Listen To God's Word!
 - Listen To God's Witness!
 - And Look! Behold!
 - Jesus Is "The Lamb Of God!"
 - He Is The Only Lamb:
 - "Without Blemish And Without Spot!"
 - He Is The Only Lamb:
 - "Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!"
 - 2. But - This Message Doesn't Just Apply:
 - To Your Need Of Salvation:
 - It Also Applies To Your Need:
 - Of Sanctification:
 - From Your Sin!
 - You Don't Just Need Something:
 - To Purify You From:
 - The Stain Of Your Sin:
 - That Will Only Last Until The Next Sacrifice:
 - As In Old Testament Times!
 - You Don't Need:
 - The Blood Of Sheep & Goats!
 - You Need The Precious Blood Of:
 - The Spotless Lamb Of God:
 - To Purify You In Your Life With God!
 - Even As We Are Told In:

- Hebrews 9:14 - "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

- When You Struggle:

- With Temptation & Sin In Your Life:

- Even As A Christian:

- You Need An Eye Exam!

- To See What Is Impairing Your Vision!

- To See What Is Keeping You From What John Tells Us To Do!

- 1:29 - "Behold The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!"

- "Taketh Away" - Is In The Present Tense:

- Which Means - He Continues To Do This!

- This Is His Continual Work - Especially For His People!

- "If You From Sin Are Longing To Be Free, Look To The Lamb Of God!"

- And - You Can - Because:

3. One Day - Jesus Christ Will:

- Finish - All That He Started - Which Is The Final:

- Subjugation Of Sin!

- In The Whole World!

- In 1 Corinthians 15:25:

- The Apostle Paul Reminds Us That:

- Christ Himself - "Must Reign, Till He Hath Put All Enemies Under His Feet!"

- And So - Even Now:

- Jesus Is In The Process:

- Of Subjugating:

- All His Enemies!

- His Enemies Of Sin & Death & The Devil & His Angels!

- And - One Day - That Work:

- Will Be Complete!

4. And - This Truth - This Message:

- Gives Us Great Hope!

- Hope - Even In Times Like These!

- Hope In The Trials Of This World!

- And - Hope In The Trials:

- Of Your Own Heart & Soul!

- 1:29 - "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"

- Starting With Yours!

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