

“Behold the Lamb of God”

John 1: 29

**Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith,
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

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The fourth century bishop Theodore writes:

“We see, then, how the Evangelist moves swiftly from the sublime and divinely exalted prologue to the humility of the suffering lamb who defeats sin with the gift of immortality”

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The verse under consideration this morning introduces the second appearance of our Lord in this gospel record. The first is in verse 26:

Joh 1:26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

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Note,

The Lord coming to John

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him

Why?

Gill notes:

“Not to be baptized, for he had been baptized before by him.”

Verses 31-34 seems to be John looking back to the time of Christ’s baptism.

Ans – It was the time for him to be revealed and to begin calling his disciples to himself!

Outline:

1. The Declaration of the Lamb

2. The Purpose of the Lamb

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| 1. The Declaration of the Lamb |
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“and saith, Behold the Lamb of God”

There are three passages in the OT which readily come to mind from this declaration of John.

Read Genesis 22: 1-9

Calvin on verse 9:

Moses purposely passes over many things, which, nevertheless, the reader ought to consider.

When he has mentioned the building of the altar, he immediately afterwards adds, that Isaac was bound. But we know that he was then of middle age, so that he might either be more powerful than his father, or, at least, equal to resist him, if they had to contend by force; wherefore, I do not think that force was employed against the youth, as against one struggling and unwilling to die: but rather, that **he voluntarily surrendered himself.**

Hence we see:

1. The Readiness or Willingness of Christ

Read Exodus 12: 1-13

Verse 5 we see:

2. The Righteousness of Christ

Robert Hawker:

Was not the spotless state of the Lamb intended as an emblem of the immaculate holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ? [1Pe 1:19](#); [Heb 7:26](#). And was not the precept concerning the age of the Jewish lamb, intended to show, that he whom this

prefigured should offer himself in the prime and strength of life? [Lev 1:3-10](#); [Mal 1:14](#).

Read Isaiah 53

In verses 10-12 we see:

3. The Reward of Christ

So;

His Readiness – His Righteousness – His Reward

Also, the Book of Revelation is filled with references to Christ as the Lamb.

[Rev 5:6](#) (KJV) And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a **Lamb** as it had been slain,

[Rev 5:8](#) (KJV) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the **Lamb**,

[Rev 5:12](#) (KJV) Worthy is the **Lamb** that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

[Rev 6:16](#) (KJV) the wrath of the **Lamb**:

[Rev 7:9](#) (KJV) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the **Lamb**, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

[Rev 7:17](#) (KJV) For the **Lamb** which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

[Rev 12:11](#) (KJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the **Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

[Rev 17:14](#) (KJV) These shall make war with the **Lamb**, and the **Lamb** shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

2. The purpose of the Lamb

“which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Note,

There are two sub-points here:

1) The Central Purpose

2) The Extent of that Purpose

So,

Firstly;

What was the Central Purpose of the Lamb of God?

That is answered in the words:

“which taketh away ... sin”

Now,

Before we can talk of the extent of the Atonement, we must accurately identify the work of the Atonement!

In other words, what did our Lord actually do in being sin bearer?

The words,

which taketh away ... sin

Must be understood!

Thayer is helpful here:

3) to bear away what has been raised, carry off

3a) to move from its place

3b) to take off or away what is attached to anything

3c) to remove

3d) to carry off, carry away with one

3e) to appropriate what is taken

3f) to take away from another what is his or what is committed to him, to take by force

3g) to take and apply to any use

3h) to take from among the living, either by a natural death, or by violence

3i) cause to cease

In other words,

For whoever our Lord has done this for, it is done completely!!!

So;

We must emphasize the efficiency or effectiveness of the Atonement before we can address the extent of the Atonement!!

Also we must say that:

The Extent of the Atonement goes as far and no further then its Effectiveness!

To say anything else is meaningless and futile!!

The extent of the atonement is defined by the intent of the atonement.”

~**Steven Lawson**

John Owen (quoted by Dr C. Matthew McMahan)

“[If Jesus died for all men]...why then, are not all freed from the punishment of all their sins? You will say, “Because of their unbelief; they will not believe.” But his unbelief, is it sin, or not? If not, why should they be punished for it? If it be sin, then Christ underwent the punishment due to it; If this is so, then why must that hinder them more than their other sins for which he died from partaking of the fruit of his death? If he did not, then he did not die for all their sins.”

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2. The Extent of that Purpose

which taketh away the sin of the world.

The word world appears 288 times in scripture

80 of them in the gospel of John (1 cor. closest with 29)

1 John 23 times.

Let us just refer to some of those that speak of the extent of Christ’s work:

Joh 1:9 (KJV) *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Joh 3:16 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Joh 3:17 (KJV) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Joh 4:42 (KJV) And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Joh 6:51 (KJV) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Joh 12:46 (KJV) I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Joh 12:47 (KJV) And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

Joh 17:9 (KJV) I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

Joh 17:21 (KJV) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

But by far, the passage in John's gospel which sheds most light on this point is:

Read - John 11: 45-52

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App:

1. Has the Lord Jesus come to you and impressed the reality of who he is to your soul?
2. Is it your deepest desire and practice to point all men to him?

3. Are you assured that Christ has taken away your sin?

May the Lord bless His Word to our souls.

Amen.