## THE LAMB OF GOD TRIO

## Scripture and Comments for 3 Readers

- 1 In Revelation 13:8 we find that the Lamb of God that is, Jesus is ETERNAL, for there John mentions "the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world."
- 2 The Jews understood that salvation from sins involved the shedding of blood. When the angel spoke to Joseph, he said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- 3 When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him early in his public ministry of Jesus, he said to his own followers, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 1 The prophet Isaiah compared the Lamb of God to actual sheep when he said, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."
- 2 This prophecy was fulfilled at the trial of Jesus. Mark 15:3,4 records this: *The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."* But he did not open his mouth.
- 3 In many ways the first Passover contains details that were either fulfilled by Jesus around the time of the crucifixion or used by him to teach new truth. Here is one example from Exodus 12: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.... The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect ..."
- 1 Jesus fulfilled this prophetic picture by being the only human who lived his life without defect. At his trial, Luke records that *Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."* On the cross, one thief crucified with Jesus said to the other, "We are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."
- 2 Tucked away in Exodus 12 is this detail concerning the killing of the animals: "Do not break any of the bones." This detail takes on fresh meaning when we hear the following story from John 19:
- 3 Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.
- 1 In Exodus 12 the Israelites were told: *This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you are to celebrate it as a festival to the Lord a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread without yeast.*" The absence of all yeast has been an important part of Passover remembrances from the start. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul uses yeast as a symbol for evil, which has no place in the individual or corporate lives of believers. Listen:

- 2 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast as you really are.
- 1, 2, & 3 For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
- 3 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.
- 1 The meal that Jesus ate with his disciples, the one we commonly call The Last Supper, was a Passover meal. How fitting that Christ, our Passover lamb, should die at the same time all the other Passover lambs were being killed! During the meal, Jesus took two of the main elements, bread and wine, and gave them new meaning, showing that a new covenant was arising out of the old.
- 2 Luke 22 says "Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'
- 3 "In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.' "
- 1 It is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8,9.
- 2 Ephesians 5:1,2: Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 3 Eternal praise from Revelation 5: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!
- 1, 2, & 3 Amen!

Revelation 13:8; Matthew 1:20; John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7; Mark 15:3,4; Exodus 12; Luke 23:4,41; John 19:31-33; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Luke 22:19,20; Ephesians 2:8,9; Ephesians 5:1,2; Revelation 5:12

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