

"The Declaration by John the Baptist"**John 1:29-34**

Introduction: Last week in our study we ended as we were looking at John's declaration of Jesus in verse 29. We considered how there were two main events that happened before this verse which John does not record. They were the baptism of Jesus and the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days. Therefore, we know that John had met Jesus earlier and now Jesus has returned to where John's ministry is taking place. John had been questioned by the religious leaders because they felt threatened by his ministry. They saw John as a threat to their power and authority over the people and then on top of that John was calling on the Jews to repent and be baptized. Before John, baptism was only for Gentiles who desired to enter into Judaism. The baptism was a cleansing of the old practices of the Gentiles as they came into Judaism. Now, as John called upon the Jews to be baptized, we can understand that this was a great insult to them. For these reasons and others John was not liked by the religious leaders.

➤ **Jesus comes to John the Baptist**

Notice John 1:29

There is much to consider in this verse. First of all, we need to notice that John calls Jesus the Lamb of God. He does not just call Him a Lamb. Jesus is presented here as a contrast to all the lambs we read of in the Bible. Those lambs were provided by man, but the Lamb of God was provided by God and rightly so when we understand why He came. Let us do a little search to see a very important point. We need to look at the account of Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah. Isaac asked a very important question, and Abraham gave a very important answer.

Genesis 22:5-8

⁵ *And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.*

⁶ *And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.*

⁷ *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?*

⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Isaac asked his father, "Where is the Lamb?" This question runs the entire way through the Old Testament. We can see glimpses of the Lamb, but He does not come into a clear view until John declares Jesus to be the Lamb of God.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

In the Old Testament the prophesied of the coming of the Lamb but they never had a full picture. Their pictures were fragmented. But when John the Baptist came on the scene he pointed to Jesus and declared Him to be the Lamb that had been prophesied of.

When Isaac asked the question, Abraham gave a very interesting answer. He said that God would provide Himself a lamb. We need to see that the lamb would be provided for God. Why does Abraham say this? Because God is the One who has been offended by sin and therefore it is God who determines how sin will be paid for. It is His wrath that must be satisfied. Man broke God's Law and therefore we do not get to pick the means by which the penalty of sin will be paid. It is God who made that decision. Jesus is the only WAY in which God determined that sin could be paid for. That is why Jesus is called the LAMB OF GOD. Jesus is God's Lamb, and it would be through the sacrifice of Jesus that God's wrath would be satisfied.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation [satisfaction] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Notice John 1:29 again.

John not only declares that Jesus is the Lamb of God, but he also declares that He takes away the sin of the world. This should have grabbed the attention of the people who were listening. The lambs that were sacrificed in the Old Testament were not able to take away sin. Their blood only covered the sin.

Psalm 32:1

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All the Old Testament sacrifices only covered sin and were not able to take it away.

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

³ *But in those sacrifices, there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

There are 4 things here that the Old Testament sacrifices could not do. They could never make the common person perfect so that they could come into the presence of God. It was only the high priest who was permitted to come into the Holy of Holies once a year.

Neither could the Old Testament sacrifices clear the conscience of the sinner. Every year as the sacrifices were offered there was a remembrance of past sins and the weight of those sins as the sinner realized they were still on his or her account. So, there was still the convicted conscience and there was still the reminder of the sin.

Then there was the last thing that those sacrifices could not do, and it was they could never take away sin. Each believer in the Old Testament always had sin on their account. With all of this we must understand that when the Old Testament saints died, they did not go into the presence of God. They went to Paradise which was separated from hell by a great gulf.

Luke 16:19-22

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

These people were kept in Abraham's Bosom/Paradise until Jesus died to pay their sin debt.

Ephesians 4:7-10

⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

When Paul says that He led captivity captive he is referring to Jesus leading those who were in Paradise out of captivity and into the presence of God. The Old Testament saints were saved on credit until Jesus paid the sin debt.

It is different for us today as believers.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Our sins are removed from our account the moment we believe on Jesus Christ. They are forgiven and forgotten.

Hebrews 8:

¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

Micah 7:19

¹⁹ *He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

Notice John 1:30-33

John says something here that his audience should have picked up. John's baptism was external, and it was a picture of a life being cleansed in preparation for the Messiah. But the baptism that Jesus brought was internal and it would forever change the lives of those who experienced it. Jesus had come to change people from the inside out and that is exactly what happens when a person is saved. The Jews should have made a connection to what Ezekiel had said.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

²⁵ *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

²⁶ *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

²⁷ *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Application:

There is coming a day when Israel will be saved, and they will be changed forever because they will have the Spirit of God within them. I am reminded here that when a person is saved today, they become a new creation. Their life changes because now they are indwelt with the Spirit of God. They now have a desire for spiritual things such as the Word of God and gathering together with other believers. The Spirit puts within them the desire to live for the Lord. It does not mean that we are perfect and that we do not sin

because we do. But with the Holy Spirit within us we cannot help but to be changed as He works on us from the inside out.

Notice John 1:34

Here again is the testimony of John. He pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world and here John declares that He is the Son of God. This means that He is God in the flesh, God became a Man.

Application:

This declaration by John is a good reminder to each of us concerning God's care and compassion for us. When we go through the difficulties of life and when we find ourselves in the seasons of darkness and despair. When we find ourselves wondering where God is and why has He allowed this to happen, we can read verses such as this and be reminded that God loves us so much that He became a Man to come here and to meet our needs. He has come to this world to give us an abundant life.

John 10:10-11

¹⁰ *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Conclusion:

Psalm 42:1-5

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

² *My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

³ *My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?*

⁴ *When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.*

⁵ *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.*