

Behold The Lamb

I. Announce:

- A. Danielle Turnure update - Today she is breathing 100% on her own. *Smiled. Stuck out tongue.*
- B. Slide1 Women's Retreat.
- C. Slide2 New Bel Class.

II. Slide3 Intro: Behold The Lamb

- A. My thoughts for the next book for Wednesday Night. I'm going to be starting Revelation.
 1. But...I really don't want to make the emphasis End Times. Because that wasn't the Authors intent. Jesus is the Authors intent.
 2. So as we looked at the I AM statements on Sundays...so now we'll look at His self-revelation, self-unveiling here.
 3. But How? Through the **Lamb** metaphor.

III. Slide4 THE LAMB

- A. What is at the center of the *Passover meal*? What is the central thing of *Jewish worship*?
- B. What is at the center of the *revised Passover meal* (Lord's Supper)? What is the central act of *Christian worship*? It is *a bloody death of a helpless victim, a lamb*.
 1. This is a bible-long story. It is the bible's plot line/narrative.
 - a) It is the story of a **Lamb**.
 2. Why a lamb? it represents *innocence*, being *defenseless*, a *sacrificial victim*.
 - a) i.e. **Uriah** in 2 Sam.12:1-10. It's the image that Nathan used to convict David in his parable of the 2 men (1 poor, 1 rich). *The poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought & nourished; and it grew up together with him & with his children. It ate of his own food & drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.*
- C. **The Lamb** is the central figure in John's apocalyptic visions in Revelation. It contains **28** references to Christ as *a conquering, sacrificial lamb*.
- D. Slide5 We see the lamb appearing in *a sacrificial sense* as early as Gen.4:1-4. Read.

1. Slide6 Maybe even in Gen.3:21?

IV. Slide7 THE MOSAIC LAW

- A. In the **Mosaic law**, God made it very clear *the first born of every family is His*.
 1. Unless you redeem him. Every yr you had to pay for this *redemption* w/silver.
 2. There is a debt over **every family on earth**. His life is *forfeited* until it is *redeemed*.

V. Slide8 GOD WILL PROVIDE A LAMB

- A. Let's read Gen.22:1-14.
- B. If Abraham heard a voice saying, *Go into the tent & kill your wife Sarah*, he would know he was hallucinating.
 1. But in hearing, *take your firstborn, Isaac*, he knew God was *calling in the debt*.
 2. This is why Isaac would have to die...because of *Abraham's sins*.
 3. So Abraham is hoping that **God** will *provide a lamb*, so he doesn't have to give his little lamb (Isaac).

VI. Slide9a THE LAMB OF GOD

- A. John the Baptist was the only one to call Jesus *The Lamb of God* (twice Jn.1:29,36)
What did he mean by that? 3 dominant interpretations:
 1. Slide9b The Passover lamb (Exod 12).
 - a) The writer of the Gospel of John applies the Passover lamb imagery to Christ at His death. John 19:36, citing Exod 12:46 *not one of his bones should be broken*.
 - b) The Gospel dates Jesus' death to **the time** of the slaying of the Passover lambs.
Ex.12:6 *kill it at twilight* (lit.) between the evenings, between 3-6pm. *Jesus died at 3pm*
 - c) **However**, the Passover sacrifice was not oriented towards taking away sin.
 2. Slide9c The Suffering Servant (Isa 53).
 - a) The Suffering Servant *bears the sins* of the people of Israel (Isa 53:6-12) and is described as a lamb *led to the slaughter*.
 3. Slide9d The lamb Abraham offered in place of Isaac (Gen 22).

- a) The account in Genesis clearly uses *substitutionary & sacrificial* language. *Gen 22:13*
- b) The NT authors invoke this account as foreshadowing Christ. *However*, Genesis does not present this sacrifice as taking away sin. *In addition*, the actual animal that was sacrificed in place of Isaac was a *ram*.
 - (1) *So, strange to the story...* we all get excited *Yah, God provided Himself a sacrifice*, but still...only a *temporary* one...*the Lamb didn't* show up, it was a *ram*.

VII.Slide10 THE PASSOVER

- A. Paul said, *For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.* 1 Cor.5:7
- B. *Slide11/12 Ex.12:22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.*
 - 1. This judgement was not just in regards to the *Egyptians* firstborn, *but* also the *Israelites*. They couldn't go stand outside in judgment, on their own.
 - 2. Yes, the Israelites are politically and economically *the victims*. *But look out* if you go out from underneath *the blood of the lamb* and face judgment on your own.
 - 3. I'm delivering you tonight w/a *lamb*, *but* you need *another Lamb* even more important as this one. *Your choice dead son or dead lamb*. The lamb got what the son deserved.
- C. *Slide13 When Jesus stood up at the Passover meal, as the father or the leader of the family does...* He *explains* the meal, as was done in Exodus 12, *and* is still at the Seder feast today.
 - 1. He would normally say, *this is the bread of affliction, our ancestors suffered in the wilderness so we could be free*. *But* instead He took the bread and said *this is My body, My affliction* that I am going to *suffer*, that will bring *you* ultimate *freedom*.
 - 2. The disciple would have to be thinking, *what kind of Passover Meal is this? I see unleaven bread, I see the 4 cups, but where is the Lamb?* No lamb *on* the table, *because* the Lamb was *at* the table.
 - 3. Gentlemen...*I Am the Central Theme of all the Holy Scriptures. I am the sacrifice. I am not the ram but the Lamb!*

- D. So John the Baptist was saying *behold the Lamb of God...* under the inspiration of the HS. He was saying, *I get it!* Our 1st born were saved, because God gave up His 1st born.
1. This was the answer to Abraham. I'm going to walk up the mountain with my son and place the wood on Him. And nobody will be able to say stop.
 2. Slide14 One commentator put it this way, "When the ultimate Child cried, my God my God why have you forsaken me? the Father paid the price...in His **silence**."
- E. So when John said, *Behold the Lamb of God*, he wasn't just saying, *there he is*. No! It was *Behold*...think about it, take it in, realize it. *Look, look, look*. Grasp it.
- F. Slide15 The category of sacrifices in Scripture are:
1. A sacrifice for **1 person** - Adam & eve.
 2. A sacrifice for **1 family** - Passover.
 3. A sacrifice for **1 country** - Atonement.
 4. A sacrifice for **1 world** - John 3:16 *for God so loved the world*.
- G. Slide16 Abraham's chapter of the lamb said...there's a *debt*.
- H. Moses's chapter of the lamb said...but *a Substitute* can pay for it.
- I. Jesus's chapter of the lamb said...it's *Me*, God's only son.
- J. And there is one more chapter...where *the Lamb is on the throne!*
1. Starting next week...let's meet & grow deeper in our understanding & devotion with this *Lamb on the throne*.
- K. *****
- L. Meet Jesus as a **Lamb**, or the alternative is to meet Him as Hosea says, *as a lion & a bear*.
1. Read Hosea 13:7,8.
- M. Slide17/18 Rev.5:5,6 (1st time mentioned in Rev) We note: *lion, root, lamb*.
1. Why a Lamb? cuz only thru His sacrificial atonement is our future w/God possible.
 2. When John turned around to see the **Lion**, he saw a **Lamb**.
 3. A standing lamb, w/blood on it, w/7 horns (power), & 7 eyes (7 sp.).

4. **Slain...**(i.e.) **He still had the markings!** To remind man for eternity the **cost** of their redemption.
- a) Yet, He was **standing**...meaning **Victorious!**
 - b) Emphasis then on His **Resurrection** **not** on the **crucifixion**...*Had been slain.*