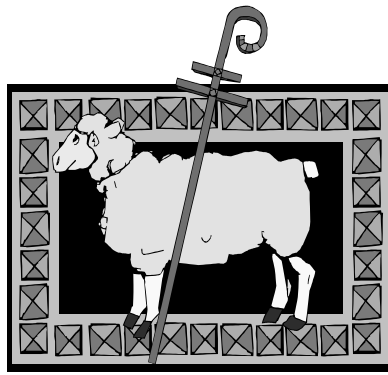


“BEHOLD THE LAMB”



“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 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.”

—Isaiah 53:6, 7

“GOD HIMSELF WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB” (*Genesis 22:1-18*)

“Under the Old Testament system, every worshiper had to bring his own lamb. If he had no lamb, he had to buy a lamb. He could not borrow a lamb. No one could give him a lamb. He had to provide his own lamb. In the New Testament everything is reversed. God provides the Lamb!” — Robert C. Shannon

I. ABEL’S PATTERN (*Genesis 4:3, 4*)

- A. Beginning revelation
- B. The test of obedience and faith
- C. Foreshadowings of Christ

“We notice at once that in this Abel incident the emphasis is upon the necessity of the Lamb...Abel offered his lamb ‘by faith,’ that is, faith in what God had spoken about it.”

—J. Sidlow Baxter

II. ABRAHAM’S PROVISION (*Genesis 22:1-18*)

- A. The willing heart
- B. The Divine provision
- C. Foreshadowings of Christ

III. ATONEMENT PREFACE

(I Peter 1:18-21; Revelation 5:6, 8; 13:8)

- A. “Before the foundation of the world”
- B. The critical sacrifice
- C. Foreshadowings of Christ

“The grand climax is the book of Revelation, where ‘the Lamb’ as an epithet for Christ appears twenty-eight times.” (Leland Ryken)



Sheep near Mount Hermon, Israel

None other Lamb,
None other Name,
None other hope in heav’n or earth or sea;
None other hiding place from guilt and shame:
None beside Thee. —Harriet Beecher Stowe

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION and APPLICATION...

1. Compare Cain’s unacceptable offering (*Genesis 4*) with the ways that people today might try to impress God. Do you think that he was treated unfairly?
2. What might have been the incentives to both Cain and Abel in bringing their offerings to God? What constitutes genuine offerings made to God by today’s Christians? Do you think that there are real rewards for charities that are not Christian?
3. *Hebrews 11:17-19* states that Abraham was obedient to God’s great test. Do you think that Abraham knew what he was doing? Why do you believe that he was tested in this way? Just what were the factors that moved him to respond?
4. Discuss the parallels between Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac, and God’s willingness to offer His Son. How did the whole story foreshadow Jesus Christ as our sinbearer and redeemer?
5. *Revelation 13:8* refers to “the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.” What does this tell us about God’s whole plan of creation?