

## THE PRECIOUS LAMB OF GOD (Is. 53)

In the Old Testament the importance of the lamb cannot be overstated, **Ex. 29:38** Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. ... These lambs were known as *tamid*, the Hebrew word for ‘continually’, ‘daily’. **39** The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: **40** And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour [*omer*; ‘tenth part’ = two litres] mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil [*a hin*; ‘fourth part’ = a litre]; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering [*another litre*]. **41** And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. **42** This shall be a *continual* burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. ... The only access the people had before God was through the vicarious sacrifice of the unblemished lamb, - the lamb died in their place as an atonement for their sin ... the lamb took their place, suffering the penalty for their sin. ... Let’s consider this ...

**THE LAMB SLAIN** In the Book of Revelation, John was shown a curious creature belonging to Satan’s realm, - **Rev. 13:11** he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ... This innocent-looking creature was as cute and as loveable as any little lamb, until he opened his mouth and was exposed as a vile beast! ... Set against him is the Lord Jesus Who walked along the banks of the River Jordan, and was greeted with the words, **Jn. 1:36** Behold *the Lamb of God!* ... He is the One all the lambs sacrificed in the Old Testament *prefigured*, - anticipated, - for in the Old Testament all the lamb-sacrifices were temporary, but Christ’s sacrifice is eternal ... never needing to be repeated.

So therefore, Jesus is the only way to the Father, and through Him alone, - through His obedience, - has come the redemption of the countless number of the Redeemed whose names are **Rev. 13:8** written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ... The dictionary definition of Redemption is “the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt” ... and Jesus the Redeemer entered this world to give His life on the cross to ‘clear our debt’ of sin. ... At Calvary, long before your name was recorded on a birth certificate, God had already inscribed *your name* in *His* book!

He called me long before I heard,  
Before my sinful heart was stirred.

That means my name was written in *blood* red ... depicted in the blood of the Lamb when Jesus died for me on the cross. Before creation, our Heavenly Father had intricately planned Calvary, and there He would present His only-begotten and perfect Son, - *like a lamb*, - and He would die the most ruthless death to redeem His own so that through the shedding of His blood, we would be saved! ... Apart from the cleansing power of His shed blood, - what the blood stands for, i.e. the covering of our sins, - none would be saved, for without the shedding of His blood there would be no remission (forgiveness) for our sins.

And outside of Him there is no salvation, no cleansing from sin, no hope of eternal life in Heaven, ... only through Christ, and Christ alone. ... Any person who tries to take even the tiniest molecule of credit exposes how little they understand of the Gospel for as Paul explained, salvation is all of God, **II Tim. 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began ... Paul knew to take none of the glory, **Eph. 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

In ways we cannot understand, He measured across the expanse of time, and He set out all He planned to occur. And *nothing* was able to stop His Son coming into this world, as He had prepared ... *especially* the salvation of His people for whom His Son would come to die ... From eternity, Jesus, **the Lamb slain**.

**THE LAMB SEPARATED** In the early morning the shepherd would go among his flock, and he would look for and choose the best to bring to the altar of sacrifice ... and he would do the same in the evening. He would separate the lamb, - and it had to be less than a year old, - and he would lift it out from the rest and carry it in through the door of the outer court of the tabernacle. He would walk towards the priest and hand over the lamb. In front of him, the priest would slaughter the animal and the blood would be ceremonially poured out which would symbolise the washing away the sins of the person whose offering it was.

God the Father brought *His* Lamb, - unblemished, untainted, - His own Son ... and He laid Him upon the most vile altar of sacrifice this world has ever known. ... He *nailed* His Sacrifice to the cross ... He fixed His

Son on Calvary's tree more securely than any Roman soldier could have done. ... It wasn't the nails which kept Jesus there for He could have removed them and come down from the cross ... but it was His Father's will and plan He remained there because **Is. 53:10** *it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.*

Our sin kept Jesus on the cross, and our sin *grieved* His Father so much He turned His face away from His Son ... Imagine the heart and mind of God as He prepared this plan ... How must it have been for each day to pass, - as Jesus was on this earth, - and each day God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit knew the time for the cross was drawing closer when Jesus would **Jn. 12:32** *be lifted up from the earth* to become **the Lamb separated.**

Wounded for me, wounded for me,  
There on the cross He was wounded for me;  
Gone my transgressions, and now I am free,  
All because Jesus was wounded for me."

More forcefully than any priest in the Old Testament, the Father struck His Son and the blood of Jesus flowed from the cross. What a scene! **Is. 53:2** *he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ... The Lamb slain . The Lamb separated*

**THE LAMB SUFFERED** He wasn't pretending. He wasn't putting on an act to tug at the heart strings of those who mocked. ... *He suffered* for in the will and plan of God, He *had* to suffer ... and He yielded to His Father's will, without a word, **Is. 53:7** *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

Isaiah described how He looked, **Is. 52:14** *his [face] was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men ... Think of how His mother's tears rolled down her cheeks ... and her broken heart. ... And look at those stony-faced Pharisees as they heaped their vile at Him! ... They hated Jesus with contempt emanating from out of Hell! ... The penalty of sin which God required Jesus to die ... But here is the good news ... Here is why He did it ... to redeem His people,*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

... That is the love of God which "drew salvation's plan!" ... and "the grace that brought it down to man!" ... the grace that stretched across the vast and mighty gulf "at Calvary!" ... **The Lamb slain ... The Lamb separated ... The Lamb suffered ...**

**THE LAMB SUCCESSFUL** In a tomb in the Jerusalem garden, there is a message written over the door, "He is risen". It does not matter whether it was the tomb Jesus was laid in or not ... it is empty, for *He is risen!* ... He is not there, and He is not in any tomb ... And not only did Jesus defeat death, but He defeated the very reason for death. He defeated the sin that causes death for He defeated the devil at Calvary.

That means the devil and death have no hold over the Christian for through the Saviour's sacrifice on the cross, - **I Cor. 15:57 ... [God] giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** ... And the devil can never undo what Jesus accomplished at Calvary. Yes, Satan managed, - because God allowed him, - to 'bruise' the Saviour's heel, - but the Saviour on the cross, *crushed* Satan's head. ... The devil was not killed at Calvary, - nor bound, nor imprisoned, - he hasn't been cast into the lake yet for Peter wrote he continues to roam about like a lion, ... but what Jesus did to him at the cross, the devil has never been able to get over ... and he *knows* he was defeated. ... Who defeated Him? Our Lord Jesus, - **slain, separated, suffering**, - defeated him! ... And in defeating Him, our Saviour **successfully** fulfilled His promise, **Jn. 12:32 I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.** ... And that is what the Gospel does for it draws all those who come to Him through saving faith ...

It is a thing most wonderful,  
Almost too wonderful to be,  
That God's own Son should come from Heaven  
And die to save a child like me.

**The Lamb successful** ... and finally ... **THE LAMB IS SOVEREIGN** Every name recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life has been written there by God with the indelible ink of Heaven which means it never rubs out or fades. He has never written a second edition, or a sequel, nor had to modernise it in any way for He has known His will from before the beginning ... and His grace is Sovereign Grace.

He is the King of kings Who has reigned at creation, and before ... and on the cross ... and throughout history ... and He is reigning today from Heaven, from where He is coming to earth to reign someday, and He will reign throughout eternity.

He is the Lamb of God. He is perfect, faultless, incomparable. He is the Alpha, and He is the Omega ... and He is also every letter of God's alphabet in between. He is the Author, for He has written the Book ... and He is its Finisher, - He knows all that is contained within it for nothing has entered the Book except that which has been inscribed by Him.

In Heaven He is the Lamb the citizens adore, - the Object of their worship (Rev. 5:12,14), and the centre of Glory (Rev. 21:22) - **the Lamb is sovereign.**

**CONCLUSION** ... Here is what we have studied, - the Lamb was **slain**, the Lamb was **separated**, the Lamb **suffered**, the Lamb was **successful**, and the Lamb is **sovereign**.

Down at the cross where my Saviour died,  
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His Name!

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power,  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved, to sin no more.