

Mary's Little Lamb (Christmas B.C.) Genesis 22:2-13; Exodus 12:1-13

INTRODUCTION

We're going to hit "**rewind**" again and take another look at **Christmas B.C.** Last week we went "*back to the future*," to the days right after the creation of the world to discover that Christmas was God's plan from the very beginning. **Genesis 3:15** shows us that while Satan wounded Jesus on the heel, the "*Seed of the Woman*" crushed the evil one when He died on the Cross.

Christians everywhere recognize the lamb as a familiar biblical image. It is often connected with both Christmas and Easter. Though lambs aren't specifically mentioned in the Christmas story, they are implied by the presence of shepherds and also by the fact that Jesus was born in a stable. So even though the word "*lamb*" is not used in connection with Jesus' birth, we know there must have been many flocks in the area around Bethlehem.

The Bible makes the connection between Jesus and lambs in several passages. **Isaiah 53:7** compares the Messiah to a lamb going to be slaughtered. John the Baptist called Jesus the "**Lamb of God**" (**John 1:29**). Paul called Christ the "**Passover Lamb**" in **1 Corinthians 5:7**. Peter spoke of Christ's blood as the **blood of a lamb** in **1 Peter 1:18-19**. Finally, the book of **Revelation** explicitly calls Christ "**the Lamb**" 30 times.

Our emotional connotations for the word "*lamb*" are entirely positive. **Words such as gentle, helpless, friendly and innocent come to mind.** Compare that with the image of the snake used as a symbol for the devil. **Children instinctively love lambs while most people fear snakes.** The two animals are about as far apart on the emotional scale as you can get.

This morning we're going to focus on **Jesus as the Lamb of God**, presented to us in the pages of the Old Testament. Jesus is the lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Even before God began creation, He made provision for the sins of a fallen race. **The Lamb is cradled in the womb of**

the Old Testament, whose types and symbols, promises and prophecies point us to Jesus. Instead of focusing on one passage, we will visit two portions of Scripture that show us that Mary's little lamb was the promised Lamb of God, sent to save people from their sins.

Let's dig in...

In order to understand the biblical picture of Jesus as the Lamb of God we need to leave the modern world and journey back in time to the days of Abraham. We begin just a few chapters from where we started last week. Please turn in your Bible to **Genesis 22:1-13**.

Please note...

I. God, Abraham and the _____ lamb

Let me point out some truths from this passage:

1. Mount Moriah is where the Temple was eventually built.
See 2 Chronicles 3:1.

2. God "himself" provided the lamb.

3. The ram was a substitute offering.

Please turn in your Bible to Exodus 12:1-13.

Let's dig in...please note...

I. The Passover is _____ by the showdown in Egypt

II. _____ the Passover Lamb

Bible commentator, Charles Simeon, notes that even the smallest details of the Passover seem to point to Christ. Let's look at some similarities between the events of the first Passover and Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross as the ultimate Passover Lamb. Christ wonderfully fulfills the prophecy of the Passover lamb

Let me share with you his observations:

A. It must be a _____

B. It must be a _____

C. It must be a _____ lamb

D. It must be without _____

E. It must be _____ and _____

F. It must have no _____ bones

G. It must be _____ "between the evenings"

H. The blood must be _____

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? What do we do with these pre-Christmas stories? Let me share some practical applications from our study:

1. Jesus Christ is God's _____

2. There is no _____ without

3. Without _____ in Jesus, the Lamb of God,
there is no embracing of _____

4. If you refuse God's lamb, only _____ awaits