



II Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

INTRODUCTION: It was not incidental or accidental that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is a little village about five miles south of Jerusalem. The place of Jesus birth had been prophesied for centuries.

Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

For centuries the Jewish priests had been raising lambs in Bethlehem with one purpose in mind; that those lambs might be brought to Jerusalem and at the Passover would be slaughtered. It is fitting that our sacrificial Lamb would be born in such a town, and, of all places, in a stable.

I. GOD'S LAMB IN PROPHECY (EXODUS 12:1-6)

The Jews had found themselves in bondage, in slavery. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is a cruel taskmaster, and they are there with the gnawing, tormenting chains of bondage. They need to be redeemed, to be set free. So God has a plan to free His people, and that plan is wrapped up in a little lamb.

The symbol of Egypt was a serpent. On the crown of every Pharaoh was a coiled serpent. The scepter of the Pharaoh had a coiled serpent as well. So here we are about to see a great battle. It is a battle between a meek lamb and a vile, venomous serpent.

A. IT WAS A SPECIAL LAMB (EXODUS 12:5)

The priest would examine those Passover lambs so carefully that they would examine inside their mouth. They would examine the eyelids. They would look inside the ears. One blemish was enough to disqualify them.

This lamb was to prophesy of God's Lamb, Jesus Christ, who would be without spot or blemish.

B. IT WAS A SLAIN LAMB (EXODUS 12:6)

They took the lamb on the 10th day, kept it until the 14th day, and at 3pm on that 14th day, the father of the family would lift the chin of that little lamb, cut the throat, and the blood would be caught in a basin.

This was another prophecy made to show that one day, God's Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, would be butchered on a cruel Roman cross.

C. IT WAS A SAVING LAMB (EXODUS 12:7, 12-13)

Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

D. IT WAS A SHARED LAMB (EXODUS 12:8)

Not only was the lamb slain, but it was roasted. It speaks of Jesus, who endured the fire of God's wrath for us. It is so important to understand that the lamb was in them as they walked into freedom.

Colossians 1:27, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"

II. GOD'S LAMB IN HISTORY

John 1:29, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

A. JESUS WAS GOD'S SPECIAL LAMB

B. JESUS WAS GOD'S SLAIN LAMB (↑JOHN 1:29)

Why was Jesus born of a virgin? So that He could be sinless. Why was he sinless? So that He could make the blood atonement. While Mary was the

earthly mother, the blood did not come from the mother; it came from the Father who was none other than God Almighty.

Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

C. JESUS WAS GOD'S SAVING LAMB

At the very time that Jesus was going through the mock trial before the priests and Pharisees and Sadducees and Herodians, the lambs were being taken before the priests to be examined to find if they were worthy of being sacrificed at the Passover. At the exact same time that the priest was saying about each Passover lamb, "I find no fault in it," Pilot was saying of Jesus Christ, "I find no fault in Him."

By 9 am Jesus was on his way to the cross on the top of Mount Mariah. Mount Mariah was exactly where God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

At 3pm the priests were cutting the throats of the sacrificial lambs and at the same time, the Lamb of God was on the cross saying these words, "It is finished!"

I Corinthians 5:7, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"

D. JESUS IS TO BE GOD'S SHARED LAMB

I Corinthians 11:23-25, "23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

III. GOD'S LAMB IN VICTORY (REVELATION 5:1-7)

A. GOD'S SMALL LAMB (REVELATION 5:6)

This seven-sealed book is the title deed to the earth and the heavens. It represents the right to rule.

John turned to see the Lion, but what he sees instead was a Lamb. The Greek word for **Lamb** is the word **arnion** which means "a lambkin" or a little lamb.

On one side we see a little Lamb and on the other side is Satan, the serpent. This is exactly the prophecy we saw in Exodus chapter 12.

B. GOD'S SLAIN LAMB (REVELATION 5:6)

This Lamb still bears the marks of the nails, and He will forever bear those marks.

C. GOD'S STANDING LAMB (REVELATION 5:6)

The fact that He is standing speaks of the resurrection of the Lamb.

D. GOD'S STRONG LAMB (REVELATION 5:6)

He has seven horns, which in the Bible speak of power. Seven is the number of perfection. Horns symbolize of power.

E. GOD'S SEARCHING LAMB (REVELATION 5:6)

He has seven eyes. That speaks of perfect intellect or omniscience.

F. GOD'S SOVEREIGN LAMB (REVELATION 5:7)

If someone were to ask what right Jesus had to open the seven-sealed book, He would say . . .

1. "I have the right of creation for I made it all."
2. "I have the right of redemption for I went to Calvary and bought mankind with my own blood."
3. "I have the right of conquest for I was raised from the dead."
4. "I have the right of deity for I am the great I AM."

IV. GOD'S LAMB IN MAJESTY (REVELATION 5:8-14)