

Theme: The Christmas story celebrates Christ's coming as the Lamb of God to redeem us from our sins so that we might be forgiven of God overcome false spirits and confess the Jesus revealed in Scripture.

## I. Intro - Monty Python - Kyre Banorg

- A. Knights warned of terrible monster Kyre Banorg
- B. They are all very afraid - but it is just a bunny rabbit
- C. Then they underestimate it - and pay!
- D. Our epic story & battle has a baby & Lamb at its center
- E. How can this be? How can a baby and a Lamb resolve this Story?
- F. Today: redemption and forgiveness through the Lamb of God

## II. The Story: God Will Provide A Lamb

### A. Three key themes

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on **before the Lord to prepare the way for him,**<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of **salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,**<sup>78</sup> because of **the tender mercy of our God,** by which **the rising sun will come to us from heaven**<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.** Luke 1:76–79

- 1. God is the One Who will save us
- 2. Salvation is done by redemption and forgiveness
- 3. God will bring us home from exile (next week)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, **"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** John 1:29

- 1. **We are saved by the Lamb of God**
- 2. **The Lamb of God takes away our sins - redemption and forgiveness**

### B. God will provide a Lamb to take away our sin

- 1. God provided animal skin for the fallen humans  
The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21
  - a. Sin left us needing clothing - our efforts failed
  - b. God provided clothing by killing an animal
- 2. God favored Abel's blood offering  
In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.<sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Genesis 4:3–5
  - a. Cain and Abel brought offerings
  - b. God accepted Abel's but rejected Cain's
  - c. At least part of why is Abel offered an animal - blood sacrifice
- 3. Abraham offers Isaac (Genesis 22)
  - a. God said to offer Isaac (not Abraham's idea)  
Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Genesis 22:2

b. Abraham trusted that God would provide the Lamb  
Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Genesis 22:7–8

c. God told Abraham to not kill Isaac  
But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.<sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him." Genesis 22:11–12

d. God Himself provided the Lamb for sacrifice  
Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place **The Lord Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." Genesis 22:13–14

1. Not just a random ram - provided by God
2. Yahweh Yireh (Jehovah Jireh) - The Lord will provide
3. This will shape the rest of Israel's history and faith

#### 4. The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)

- a. Israel is saved from death by the Passover Lamb
- b. The Lamb saves from wrath, curse, death
- c. This was re-enacted every year in Israel

#### 5. The sacrificial system (Leviticus)

- a. A whole system of blood sacrifice for sin
- b. A constant reminder that blood makes atonement (Leviticus 17:11)

6. Isaiah 53 - The Lamb Who will pay for our sin
  - a. A prophecy for the exiles - no more Temple sacrifice
  - b. But God will provide One to come pay for sin
  - c. He will be a Lamb to slaughter - to pay for our sin

#### C. The whole Old Testament - Look for the Sacrificial Lamb

1. This had become increasingly clear since the Fall
2. It was a steady, growing drumbeat that One would come to be the Lamb to take away our sin, so that by the end of the Old Testament there is a deafening roar of expectation for the Lamb of God to redeem and save us

### III. The Story: Behold the Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

#### A. This is the rich OT background for our texts

1. Zechariah the priest sees salvation as redemption coming from God (whole sacrificial system)  
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,<sup>77</sup> **to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,**<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Luke 1:76–79
  - a. Salvation is not political or military - it is redemption
  - b. The priest knows it comes as the Lamb is slain
  - c. John will prepare the way for the Lamb to come

2. John - Jesus is the promised Lamb of God  
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29
  - a. John says Jesus is the long promised Lamb
  - b. He is Lamb promised to take away our sin
  - c. John, the greatest prophet of the Old Covenant, is saying all of the types, shadows, promises and prophecies are now being fulfilled in the One Who has come as the Lamb of God to take away our sin

B. Jesus is the fulfillment of all of these OT promises

1. He is the One slain that our naked sin might be covered with His righteousness (Galatians 3:26-29)
2. He is the Lamb from the flock slain, an offering acceptable to God (1 Peter 1:18-19)
3. He is the Lamb Provided by God to die in our place - but God does not spare His Son as Abraham was spared. Instead the knife of God's judgement will fall on Him that we might be spared and saved. (Romans 8:32)
4. Jesus our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7)
5. Jesus is both the High Priest and the animal slain in sacrifice for us (Hebrews 7-10)
6. Jesus is the Suffering Servant, the Lamb, of Isaiah 53, pierced and crushed for our transgressions, slain that we might be saved (1 Peter 2:24)

C. Behold the Lamb of God - your salvation!!!

## IV. The Story and Our Story

- A. The Story calls for us to see Jesus as the Lamb of God
  1. We like to see Jesus in many ways: sweet baby; great teacher; inspiring example
  2. We are all tempted to be like Ricky Bobby and Cal Naughton - to like baby Jesus, party Jesus, etc.
  3. But these other ways ignore His primary role in The Story - the Lamb of God
  4. The other truths about Jesus fall into place around this one
  5. He is a great teacher, example, leader, etc - but these are distorted apart from Jesus as the Lamb of God
- B. The Story calls for us to look to the Lamb of God to take away our sin
  1. Jesus is the Lamb, and He primarily came to deal with our real, deepest need - sin
  2. We are all tempted to focus on our felt needs - and they are important. But the critical issue is the underlying problem - sin
  3. Example: the pain from my gall bladder going bad (felt need solved by morphine) vs. Gall bladder failing (true need solved by surgery)
  4. Jesus does address all of our needs (significance, fear, family, character, etc.) but His primary focus is the real, underlying problem - our sin

5. Jesus has come to pull us from the bushes, to come face to face with our loving Father, to remove the fig leaves, to clothe us, and then to begin restoring us from sin to the ways of God
6. But this is much more radical (like surgery) than the simple solutions we crave. But do not fear - behold the Lamb, He has overcome for us!

### C. Closing prayer

## Redemption and Forgiveness

Luke 1:76-79; John 1:29

December 13, 2015

Prayer

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Holy Spirit; false teaching and heresy

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.  
Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Luke 1:76–79

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