



# THE LAMB OF GOD

December 4, 2025 | *Genesis 3:7, 21; John 1: 28-29, 35-36*

## Covering Sin and Shame

Yesterday, we read a little about “the Fall” of mankind, when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and introduced sin to the world (*Gen. 3*). Immediately, “the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked” (v.7).

Their initial innocence and purity were ruined. Instead, they experienced guilt, shame, and fear for what they had done.

To cover their nakedness, “they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings” (v.7). Can you imagine wearing leaf clothes to cover yourself? I’m sure that would be a trendy fashion today.

The point was that Adam and Eve attempted to cover their shame, but their efforts did not suffice, particularly because their guilt was internal. Their new conscience was tarnished. They now had a knowledge of good and evil, and they recognized that they had committed evil by disobeying God.

So, what happened? “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them” (v.21).

Since the Lord is the one offended by our sin, He gets to decide how that offense will be resolved, how we will be forgiven, and how our relationship will be repaired. By clothing them Himself, He was establishing a means of salvation (*Isa. 61:10*).

## Sacrificial System

Notice that God’s solution to the sin problem required the death of an animal (He used garments of skin), which meant the shedding of blood, the first recorded death. Thus, we have the origin

of the sacrificial system, that blood is required for the forgiveness of sin.

Later, in the Mosaic Law, it was written, “The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls. For it is in the blood by reason of life that makes atonement” (*Lev. 17:11; 23:27*).

The writer of *Hebrews* echoed this principle by saying, “According to the Law, one may almost say that all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (*Heb. 9:22*).

So then, the people of the Bible were very familiar with animal sacrifice. In fact, a large part of the activities in the tabernacle of Moses (and later in the Temple in Jerusalem) was the sacrificial system. People were daily, weekly, and annually offering an animal in their place, and God would temporarily forgive their sin.

What does any of this have to do with Christmas? The sacrificial system was a symbol or foreshadowing of what Christ (the Messiah) would do when He arrived.

## The Lamb of God

From creation to Christ, God dropped hints regarding what He would do to deal with sin once and for all. For example, when the Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, it was a foreshadowing of the eventual sacrifice of His only son, Jesus (*Gen. 22*).

When they arrived at the place where God directed, Isaac noticed that they did not have a lamb to sacrifice (v.7). Abraham replied, “God will provide Himself the lamb for the burnt offering” (v.8).

Of course, we all know what happened next. The Lord did not require Isaac’s sacrifice, but provided a ram instead (v.13). However, in the big picture, God would provide His sacrificial Lamb at a later date.

God dropped another clue about the sacrificial lamb in Egypt, when the people of Israel were preparing for the final plague (the death of the first born, *Ex. 12*). The Lord gave Israel these instructions.

“On the tenth of this month, they are each one to take a lamb for themselves... Your lamb shall be unblemished. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel (headpiece of the door) of the houses in which they eat it... It is the Lord’s Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt... The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you...” *Exodus 12:3-13*

An unblemished lamb whose blood caused judgment to pass over them — all a picture of the Lamb of God to be slain at Calvary during Passover week (*Jn. 19:14-15*).

Perhaps the most well-known foreshadowing of the lamb is found in *Isaiah 53*, where it is written, “All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He remained silent” (v.6-7).

The clues are everywhere! God would provide a lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. But when did He arrive, and how did people know?

Back to *John 1*. When John the Baptist was preaching, He saw Jesus and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (v.28-29, 35-36).

Later, Peter wrote, “You were redeemed... with the precious blood of a lamb, unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (1 *Pet. 1:18-19*). The prophecies and types were fulfilled in Jesus.

But the writer of *Hebrews* pointed out that Christ’s sacrifice was different than that of animals. Old Testament sacrifices were continual, “for it is impossible for the blood of [animals] to take away sins” (*Heb. 10:1-4*). But Jesus made one offering — His death on the cross — and “perfected for all time those who are sanctified” (v.12-14).

There is now no more offering for sin. Jesus paid it all, and through Him we can have eternal forgiveness, “no more condemnation for those who are in Christ...” (*Rom. 8:1-2*).

What Child is this in the manger? He is the perfect Lamb of God, slain for the forgiveness of sin.

## Ponder and Pray

What ways have you tried to cover up or justify your sin? Why are His works, not ours, effective to forgive sin?

Take time to thank God for His sacrificial lamb. The Lamb was slain for wayward sheep like you. Praise Him.

**Have you missed some days?  
Click [here](#) to access previously emailed devotions.**

The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at [BiAY.org](http://BiAY.org).



