

## HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

## STUDY NINE

## The Lamb of God

*Selected Scriptures*

*While on earth, Jesus had plenty of power, of course. Being God, He had all the strength of heaven. But He never performed or attempted to impress. I'll be frank with you, of all the things about Christ, I think I admire this the most. The One who had the ability to abuse His power never came anywhere near it. He was known for His gentleness and His humility of heart.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**E**VERYONE loves a hero. Children and adults alike revel in seeing someone use strength, skill, and savvy to overcome impossible odds to save the person in distress or the city facing disaster.

Many people today put their faith in heroes because they desperately long for someone to save a world bracing for devastation—someone like a powerful politician, a prominent artist, or a prosperous entrepreneur. If one were to compare such a human hero to an animal, he or she would look like a ferocious lion or a mighty bear or a magnificent stallion.

The hero of Scripture, however, appears nothing like these figures. While the world celebrates power, prominence, and prosperity, Jesus Christ forsook these things to serve the needy, to extend compassion to the brokenhearted, and to carry Himself with gentleness and humility as the Lamb of God.

Yet understanding Jesus as the Lamb of God reveals just as much about His *personality* as it does about His *purpose*. This *Searching the Scriptures* study journeys through the New Testament to discover both *what* it means that Jesus is the lamb and *why* those in need of hope today can trust in this unlikely hero to save them.



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### PREPARE YOUR HEART

God is not so proud or distant that He won't reach down to connect with His people. In fact, God desires to know His children through prayer. Say this prayer to prepare your heart for what He wants to say to you today:

*Father, come alongside me as I explore your Word today. Lead me to the truth about Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Show me who He is so I might embrace Him as my savior and follow His example. In His gentle and humble name, amen.*



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

The earliest Israelites needed a hero desperately. For hundreds of years, they were enslaved under the brutal and unyielding hand of the Egyptians. And no amount of careful scheming or fervent revolting would overturn the strongest empire the world had ever known.

At Israel's moment of greatest need, however, God appeared to Moses with a plan of deliverance. Israel's hero introduced Himself to Moses as *El-Shaddai*. According to [Exodus 6:2–3](#), what does this name mean?

Though Egypt seemed an impossibly mighty foe, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was mightier, and He successfully freed Israel from Egypt. Thousands of years later, *El-Shaddai* would come in the flesh to earth to combat the foes of sin and death, though not as a mighty warrior . . . but as a lamb.



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#### **Observation: Discovering the Lamb's Identity**

Page after page of the New Testament contains scenes depicting Jesus as the Lamb of God. Read each of the following passages, and as you answer each question, record any additional observations you make about Jesus' role as the lamb.<sup>1</sup>

#### **The Lamb's Identity—John 1:29**

John the Baptizer came as a prophet whose responsibility was to prepare a way for the arrival of the Lamb of God. According to [John 1:29](#), who was the lamb, and what would the lamb do?

#### **The Lamb's Fate—Acts 8:32–35**

Several years after the ministry of John the Baptizer, a man name Philip found an Ethiopian eunuch scratching his head, wondering about the significance of the lamb in the Hebrew Scriptures. According to prophecy quoted in [Acts 8:32–33](#), what ultimately happened to the lamb?



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According to [Acts 8:34–35](#), how did Philip interpret this passage for the Ethiopian?

#### The Lamb's Payment—1 Peter 1:18–19

Philip explained that the lamb's fate was "good news," but Acts doesn't say much more than that. Thankfully, Peter's explanation of the good news about the lamb is preserved in his first letter. According to [1 Peter 1:18–19](#), what were the results of the lamb's fate?

#### The Lamb's Glory—Revelation 5:11–14

The revelation God gave to John allowed him to peer through the corridors of time to see creation's consummation. In his vision of heaven, he saw "a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing" among the assembly ([Revelation 5:6](#)). According to [5:11–14](#), what did the heavenly chorus say about the lamb?



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No one could have expected that the very Son of God would be led “like a lamb to the slaughter” (*Isaiah 53:7*). Yet if the Lamb of God hadn’t died, then He wouldn’t be able to offer everlasting life to those who would accept His sacrifice.



### **Interpretation: Understanding the Lamb’s Importance**

The New Testament authors knew that God had promised to send a lamb to deliver His people, and they recognized Jesus as this lamb. But . . . what does it *mean* that Jesus is a lamb? Why does Scripture use this specific metaphor to describe Jesus’ work of salvation? The answers to these questions are embedded within God’s character.

God is both righteous and holy, which means He maintains the perfect standard of what is right and good, and He cannot allow anything that falls short of this standard into His presence. This is why He expelled Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden. When they disobeyed Him, sin entered the garden and put paradise under a curse.

How, then, can a sinful person restore broken communion with God? After delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God gave them the Law that revealed how Israel could maintain a thriving relationship with God. An essential element of the Law was the sacrificial system. The only way the Jews could atone for their sins was through sacrifice.

According to *Leviticus 17:11*, why did God require a sacrifice to pay the penalty for sin?



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In light of the context of Israel's sacrificial system, what would a faithful Jew have thought reading the New Testament's depiction of Jesus as the Lamb of God?

The apostle Paul was a Jewish scholar who knew well the importance of the need for sacrifice to atone for sin. In *Romans 3:21–26*, he explained why Jesus was this perfect sacrifice. According to *3:24–26*, how is Christ's sacrifice the perfect substitute for the penalty every sinner ought to receive? Feel free to consult your *Bible study tools*.

According to Paul, how does someone receive this substitutionary atonement for his or her sins?

By offering Himself as an unblemished sacrifice, Jesus—the Lamb of God—paid the full price of humanity's sin. The sin that imperfect earthly lambs covered temporarily, the perfect divine lamb erased permanently.



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*These colorful, varied portraits of the lamb reveal symbolic meaning. First, there's a symbol of sacrifice. Second, there's a symbol of dependence, of reliance, as a little lamb would rely on its mother. Third, there's a symbol of innocence. Fourth, there's a symbol of meekness and gentleness and humility, all of which are extremely commendable and rare.*

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



### **Application: Following the Lamb's Example**

Embracing Jesus as the Lamb of God truly is a matter of life and death. Those who trust in Jesus and believe His sacrifice will pay off the insurmountable debt of sin will receive new life and will spend eternity praising the merciful Lamb of God.

Have you made the decision to trust in Jesus? If not, take a moment now to express your faith in Jesus as the atoning sacrifice for your sin. This simple prayer might say what's on your heart.

*Father, I confess that I have sinned against You. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins and bear my judgment. I put my whole faith in Him alone as my savior, and I receive Your forgiveness through His blood that was shed for me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

As your savior, the Lamb of God is also your example to follow. Jesus models:

1. A life of dependence
2. A presence of approachability
3. A heart of innocence
4. A spirit of sacrifice

How has this study on the Lamb of God broadened your understanding of the weight of your own sin, the cost of Jesus' sacrifice, and the depth of God's mercy? Take a moment to reflect on these all-important matters. How will seeing these truths more clearly affect your daily walk with God?



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Which of the four lamb-like attributes listed above does your life most clearly reflect? What kinds of practical adjustments can you make to better represent the gentle and humble heart of Jesus?

While the Lamb of God offers an example for full living, He also offers a means by which anyone can receive salvation and new life. As you conclude your study today, reflect on the words of Elvina M. Hall's simple yet theologically rich hymn, "Jesus Paid It All."

*For nothing good have I  
Where-by Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.*

*Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.<sup>2</sup>*



### A FINAL PRAYER

Conclude your study by offering your own prayer of thanksgiving for the Lamb of God's example and sacrifice.

*Father,*

#### ENDNOTES

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, "[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#)."
2. Elvina. M. Hall, "Jesus Paid It All," 1865, Hymnary.org, [https://hymnary.org/text/i\\_hear\\_the\\_savior\\_say\\_thy\\_strength\\_indee](https://hymnary.org/text/i_hear_the_savior_say_thy_strength_indee).



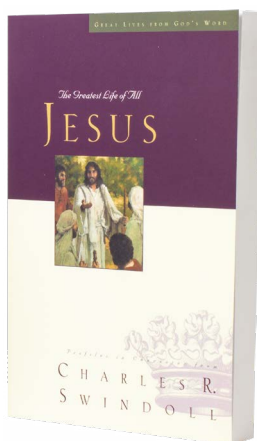


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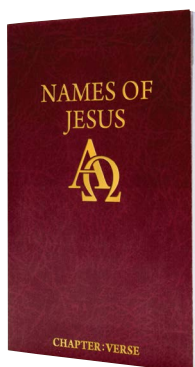
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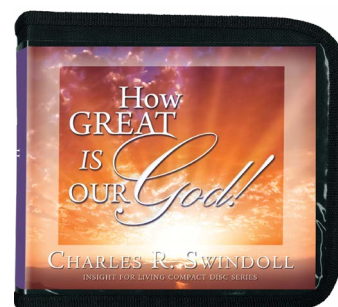
### Tools for Digging Deeper



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