

Sermon Outline

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2010-2011

- Mar 27: **The Lamb of God (Jn 1:19-29)** • April 10: The Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-35)
- April 17: The Hour Has Come (Jn 12:20-26) • April 22: It Is Finished (Jn 19:16-30)
- April 24: Peace Be With You (Jn 20:19-23)

THE LAMB OF GOD: A LENTEN MESSAGE (JOHN 1:19-29)

I. The Calling of Yeshua Ben-Yosef

II. The Testimony of John the Baptist (John 1:19-28)

- A. There were a number of ideas concerning the Day of God's return:
 - 1. Some believed that God would come with his King, the Christ.
 - 2. Some believed that the prophet Elijah would return (Mal 4:5).
 - 3. Some believed that the Prophet of whom Moses spoke would come (Dt 18:15-18).

- B. The priests and Levites want to find out who John was.

- C. But John did not see himself as any of those great figures (1:20, 21).

- D. The priests and Levites ask John to explain himself (1:22).

- E. John defines his role according to Isaiah 40:3 (1:23).
—He is only the herald of YHWH.

- F. The priests and Levites (sent by the Pharisees) ask John concerning his right to baptize (1:24-25).

- G. John responds (1:26): Someone vastly superior to him is coming.

III. The Arrival of the Lamb of God (John 1:29)

- A. The following day, Jesus comes to him.

- B. John acknowledges Jesus as “the Lamb of God.”

- C. There are several possible bases for the term.
 - 1. The lamb of the Passover (Ex 12:21)
 - 2. The lamb for Abraham (Gen 22:8)
 - 3. The daily temple sacrifices of lambs

4. The future Messiah who will suffer “like a lamb” (Isa 53:7)
- D. But rather than choose one, why not take all?
—In John’s time, the lamb had come to be associated with ideas of deliverance, salvation, sacrifice, and atonement for sin.
- E. But John emphasizes Jesus’ role as remover of sin. Why is that?
1. Because sin is now the big cosmic issue that hangs in the air.
 - a. The history of the human race and of Israel is the history of sin.
 - i. Adam and Eve were expelled because of sin.
 - ii. God causes the flood to destroy the earth because of sin.
 - iii. God chose Abraham to begin a new human nation to address sin.
 - iv. Israel fails to be God’s Answer because of her own sin.
 - b. Sin is no small issue of personal misconduct. It is what holds back the human race from attaining the glory of God.
 2. Because God himself has denied any future to sinners.
 3. In summary, John exalts Jesus as the sin-removing Lamb because God’s wrath-against-sin is the main problem facing the human race.

IV. God the Lamb

- A. Jesus Christ is God (Jn 1:1).
- B. God was the Lamb which he gave for the sins of the world.
- C. If God has paid for our sins...
 1. We can be sure that all our sins are removed.
—The worth of God’s life is sufficient to pay for all our sins.
 2. We can be sure that God yearns to reconcile us to himself.
—Christ was not bribing God to do what he doesn’t want.

V. To Be Received By Faith

The greatest obstacle for the human race is sin and God’s judgment against it. Israel’s history has shown us that sin is the normal—but tragic—course of human life. Man is helpless to remove sin by himself. Unless God himself intervenes to deal with sin and remove it, mankind will never survive the judgment of God.

But at the great turning point of history, God does the most shocking thing: He comes to you and I as the ultimate Sacrifice, as the supreme sacrificial Lamb, to bear our sins away. YHWH has provided a Lamb to take our punishment—and the Lamb is himself. And by the sacrifice of himself, the Lord punishes sin in his own body (Rom 8:3) and reconciles us to himself.

In order for you and I to enjoy the cleansing death of the Lamb, we need to receive it by faith for ourselves (Rom 3:25). In other words, we need to depend entirely on the death of Christ to remove our sins and to appease the justice of God.