



G R A C E

REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

SOLI ☐ DEO ☐ GLORIA

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

### Sermon Notes

#### *The Testimony of John the Baptist*

October 17, 2004

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup> "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'  
<sup>31</sup> "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." <sup>32</sup> John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him." <sup>33</sup> "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'  
<sup>34</sup> "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

### INTRODUCTION

- ☐ Continuation of the “momentous week”:
  - **Day 1:** John’s Testimony Regarding Jesus to the Jewish Delegation (1:19-28)
  - **Day 2:** John’s Encounter with Jesus [“the next day”...“Lamb of God”] (1:29-34)
  - **Day 3:** John’s Referral of Two Disciples to Jesus (1:35-39)
  - **Day 4:** Andrew’s Introduction of His Brother Peter to Jesus (1:40-42)
  - **Day 5:** Philip and Nathanael follow Jesus (1:43-51)
  
  - **Day 7:** Wedding at Cana (2:1-11; “on the third day”)

<sup>30</sup> **"This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'**

- ☐ No longer is the Messiah unknown, but John now points to Jesus and states, “This man is the one I have been speaking of...”
- ☐ This statement by John also reaffirms the pre-existence of Christ

- John, here, uses the word “**Man**”
  - **Why is this significant?**
  - It is highly important in our Christology we affirm the deity of Christ as well as His equality with God the Father (in terms of his essence or ontology); however, we must also affirm that Christ Jesus was the perfect God-Man.
    - He was 100% God and 100% Man
    - How does this relate to the atonement?

<sup>31</sup> **"I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."** <sup>32</sup> **John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.** <sup>33</sup> **"I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'**

- John most assuredly recognized Jesus as the son of Joseph, but not the Son of God...until now.
- “I have seen” or “I have beheld” is a perfect tense
  - This gives the expression full force
  - The perfect tense indicates something that happened in the past, but has continuing effects that are being experienced in the present time
  - John literally saw the dove descend upon Jesus and remain, and the effects of that experience are being experienced even as he makes this statement
- God gave John the Baptist a sign: The One the dove descends on and remains upon, it is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit (and is, thus, the Messiah).
  - In the Synoptics, Jesus saw the dove descending
- The dove **remained** upon Jesus
  - The Holy Spirit is **permanently** on Jesus (from eternity past to eternity future)
- Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
  - Notice who John compares the baptism in the **Holy Spirit** with the baptism with **water**.

<sup>34</sup> **"I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."**

- Again, the Greek perfect is used: I (myself) *have seen*, and have testified that this is the Son of God.

□ “Son of God” should likely read “God’s Chosen One”

○ This is likely a reference to Isaiah 42:1:

- “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.  
I have put My Spirit upon Him;  
He will bring forth justice to the nations.”

**<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

□ ***The next day***

- The day after the delegation of Jews confronted John the Baptist
- This likely refers to the series of week-long events culminating at the Wedding at Cana

□ ***he saw Jesus coming to him***

- “Coming” should likely mean “approaching” rather than “coming to him for the first time.”

□ ***“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!”***

- **DEPENDING UPON THE AUDIENCE, JOHN’S USE OF “THE LAMB OF GOD” COULD REFER TO MULTIPLE NEW AND OLD TESTAMENT IMAGES:**

**(1) The Passover Lamb**

Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 5:7

For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN."

John 19:36

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb.

<sup>46</sup> "It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.

Exodus 12:21, 46

**(2) The [Gentle] Lamb “led ... to the slaughter”**

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He did not open His mouth;

Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,  
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,  
So He did not open His mouth.

- <sup>10</sup> But the LORD was pleased  
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;  
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,  
He will see His offspring,  
He will prolong His days,  
And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.  
Isaiah 53:7, 10

- <sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter;  
And I did not know that they had devised plots against me, saying,  
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
And let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
That his name be remembered no more."  
Jeremiah 11:19

### **(3) The Servant of the Lord**

- <sup>1</sup> Who has believed our message?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- <sup>2</sup> For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,  
And like a root out of parched ground;  
He has no stately form or majesty  
That we should look upon Him,  
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
- <sup>3</sup> He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
And like one from whom men hide their face  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore,  
And our sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
- <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.
- <sup>6</sup> 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. Isaiah 53

### **(4) The Lamb of Daily Sacrifices**

<sup>38</sup> "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one year old lambs each day, continuously.  
<sup>39</sup> "The one lamb you shall offer in the morning and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight;  
Exodus 29:38-39

### **(5) The Scapegoat**

<sup>7</sup> "He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting. <sup>8</sup> "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. <sup>9</sup> "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering. <sup>10</sup> "But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.  
Leviticus 16

### **(6) The God-Provided Lamb (Abraham and Isaac)**

<sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.  
Genesis 22:7-8

### **(7) A Guilt-Offering**

<sup>12</sup> "Then the priest shall take the one male lamb and bring it for a guilt offering, with the log of oil, and present them as a wave offering before the LORD. <sup>13</sup> "Next he shall slaughter the male lamb in the place where they slaughter the sin offering and the burnt offering, at the place of the sanctuary...

Leviticus 14:12-13a

Leviticus 14; Numbers 6

### **(8) The Triumphant Apocalyptic Lamb**

<sup>6</sup> And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

<sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Revelation 5:6; 12

<sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; <sup>10</sup> and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and

wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. <sup>16</sup> "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:9-

17

<sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

Revelation 13:8

<sup>7</sup> "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelation 19:7

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Revelation 21:22-23

<sup>1</sup> Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, <sup>2</sup> in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

Revelation 22:1-3

<sup>14</sup> "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

Revelation 17:14

One Scholar notes,

**"[There is] little doubt as to what figure is in mind: the Baptist has in view the Lamb who leads the flock of God, and who delivers them from their foes and rules them in the kingdom of God."**

Leon Morris writes, **"He (the writer, John) is making a general allusion to sacrifice (in the phrase, "The Lamb of God"). The lamb figure may well be intended to be composite, evoking memories of several, perhaps all, of the suggestions we have**

canvassed. All that the ancient sacrifices foreshadowed was perfectly fulfilled in the sacrifice of Christ. [NOTE: There were five (5) primary sacrifices in the Old Testament]

- ***who takes away the sin of the world!***
  - The verb here can mean the following:
    1. “remove”
    2. “take away”
    3. “bear way in atoning death”
  
- ***the world***
  - Scholar F.F. Bruce states, “The ‘world’ embraces all without distinction of race, religion, or culture.”
  - John is proclaiming that salvation is universal, no longer is ethnic Israel God’s [only] chosen people
  
- Leon Morris states, “The verb ‘takes away’ conveys the notion of bearing off. It is perhaps not specific enough to point to any one particular means of atonement, but it does signify atonement, and that by substitution.”
  - Jesus became the substitutionary atonement for our sin

#### THE ATONEMENT OF THE LAMB OF GOD

(portions below taken from *Systematic Theology*, by Wayne Grudem, pp. 568-581)

- The Atonement was INTENTIONAL and PURPOSEFUL
  - **The atonement did not make it possible for people to be saved, it actually saved God’s people!**

**NOTE: All of these factors are exemplified in the interpretations of “the Lamb of God”**

(John 1:29)

#### □ THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

##### 1. **The Penalty Was Inflicted By God the Father**

<sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2

Corinthians 5:21

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup>

But the LORD was pleased  
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;  
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,  
He will see His offspring,  
He will prolong His days,  
And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

Isaiah 53:6; 10

## 2. Not Eternal Suffering by Complete Suffering

“If we had to pay the penalty for our own sins, we would have to suffer eternally in separation from God.”

Wayne

Grudem

## 3. The Meaning of the Blood of Christ

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:18-19

## 4. Christ's Death as "Penal Substitution"

- This is also known as the “vicarious atonement” or “substitutionary atonement”

### □ SUFFICIENCY OF THE ATONEMENT:

#### 1. We deserve to die as the penalty for sin.

- Christ was the perfect SACRIFICE.



<sup>26</sup> Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 9:36

## 2. We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin.

### □ Christ died as a PROPITIATION for our sins.

NOTE: John often uses the imagery of cups or bowls being poured out (the bowl judgments in Revelation) to symbolize the wrath of God being poured out on sin.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

<sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

1 John

2:2

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

As Jesus bore the guilt of our sins alone, God the Father, the mighty Creator, the Lord of the universe, poured out on Jesus the fury of his wrath: Jesus became the object of the intense hatred of sin and vengeance against sin which God had patiently stored up since the beginning of the world. Romans 3:25 tells us that God put forward Christ as a "propitiation" a word that means "a sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor" ...God had not simply forgiven sin and forgotten about the punishment in generations past. He had forgiven sins and stored up his righteous anger against those sins. But at the cross the fury of all that stored-up wrath against sin was unleashed against God's own Son.

Three crucial passages in the New Testament refer to Jesus' death as a "propitiation": Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; and 4:10. The Greek terms used in these passages have the sense of "a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God – and thereby makes God propitious (or favorable) toward us" ... The verses simply mean that Jesus bore the wrath of God against sin.

It is important to insist on this fact, because it is the heart of the doctrine of atonement. It means that there is an eternal, unchangeable requirement in the holiness and justice of God that sin be paid for. Furthermore, before the atonement ever could have an effect on our subjective consciousness, it first had an effect on God and his relation to the sinners he planned to redeem. Apart from this central truth, the death of Christ really cannot be adequately understood.

Grudem

**3. We are separated from God by our sins.**

□ **Christ RECONCILED us to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

**4. We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan.**

□ **Christ REDEEMED us out of bondage to sin.**

Mark 10:45 ; 1 John 5:19 ; Hebrews 2:15; Colossians 1:13

**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.      John 8:36**