

Christ our Passover

1 Corinthians 5:7

He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter.

Isaiah 53:7

The vicarious atoning suffering and death of Jesus Christ the Messiah for sinners reveals to us the love of God *in* the world and *for* the world, in a way which exceeds all knowledge.

Look at this lovely picture of a little lamb! In the large cities it is nearly a lost sight; yet it is a well-pleasing sight to everyone who is still able to watch it.

In the Holy Scriptures God compares His beloved Son, who had been in the bosom of the Father from eternity (John 1:18; Proverbs 8:22,24; Genesis 1:3,26; 11:7; Colossians 1:16), with the lamb (mentioned 26 times in the last book of the Bible, i.e. the Revelation of Jesus Christ!). What kind of tender nature and disposition, what kind of patient fondness, what kind of quiet suffering is thus being revealed to our inner eyes! The characteristics of a lamb are explicitly revealed in The Lamb of God, Agnus Dei, the Lord Jesus Christ, which are

- obedience
- patience
- innocence
- humility
- meekness

© 2011-10-Missionsdienst <i>LAV</i> e. V. <i>Lehret Alle Völker</i> e. V. (<i>Teach All Nations</i>) P.O. Box 154 D-74344 Lauffen a. N./ Germany Phone + Fax: +49 (0)7133-75 27

Even in the fine arts the lamb is being used as a symbol for the self-sacrificing Lord Jesus Christ.

To allow oneself being led to the slaughter like a lamb actually means: to accept being sacrificed without resistance.

This was in fact done by God, the creator of heaven and earth, the Saviour of every human being, the Father of Israel, in the Lord Jesus Christ. For **“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...”** (2nd Epistle to the Corinthians 5:19). What a price He paid! Actually, God already did this greatest work of all times before the foundation of the world, even before the fall of man. And it is just in the same chapter, in which the coming of the Antichrist is predicted, that God reveals **“the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world.”** (Revelation 13:8; see also Ephesians 3:11; 1 Peter 1:20). Therefore it is reckoned to be the greatest sin, that **“they do not believe in Me”** (John 16:9), that is in the Lord Jesus Christ. And **“this is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent”** (John 6:29), that is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As human beings, who have not been born again, thus being children of God’s wrath and spiritually blind (Ephesians 2:3; 4:18), we often like to defend our assumed righteousness by claiming, “I’m not really that bad!” Even as Christians it often takes a long time until we realize our total depravity. This blindness concerning our true state originates from the darkness of sin and from the liar and enemy of our souls. The blood of the Son of God, which He has shed for us on the cross of Calvary outside of Jerusalem, and His body, which He gave for us, reveal to us the truth about the thrice holy God *and* about our rebellious, inflammatory nature, that says “no” to God. **“We will not have this man to reign over us”** (Luke 19:14). – Yet, whoever recognizes the lamb of God truly confesses:

**“My sins are found galore, as sand-grains on the shore, they so much troubled thee,
They caused you so much pain, you were the lamb slain, you bled for me at Calvary.”**

Our guilt has brought the innocent One to the cross! *Having thus sacrificed Himself for us, He reconciled us to God through the cross*, **“thereby putting to death the enmity”** (Ephesians 2:16). Indeed, He has wiped out the handwriting of requirements which justly condemns us, by **“nailing it to the cross”** (Colossians 2:14). **“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven (Colossians 1:19–20).**

The first *Passover* (= *passing over, sparing*), having been instituted by God Himself, (Exodus 12:13; cf. Genesis 3:21, where God had already foreshadowed this sacrifice for the sake of man), was pointing to Calvary for a period of 1500 years. A lamb had to be slaughtered for each family, and its blood had to be applied to the doorposts and the lintel of the houses, so that the righteous judgement of God would *pass by* them and thus *spare* them. This prophetic action was fulfilled historically in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross 2000 years ago, so that everybody who by faith claims the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ against his or her sins may be spared the righteous wrath of God. – Who would like to do this? You may pray using the following words: “Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you that you also died for me on the cross and therefore ask you now to forgive my sins ... and cleanse me through your precious, innocent blood! From now on you shall be my Saviour and my Lord! Amen!” Whosoever rejects Jesus Christ and His blood remains in Satan’s kingdom. For Christ said, **“You must be born again”** (John 3:7), if you want to be incorporated into God’s kingdom!

Once you have taken this most important step in your life with all your heart, you have obtained forgiveness of your sins and eternal life (1 John 1:9; John 3:36). The Holy Spirit has then entered into your heart and you are beginning to understand God’s Word, the Bible. Your life has now got a totally new goal: the new home with the Father in Heaven – and an entirely new centre: the Lamb of God! The very centre of world history, which is still unknown to most people, has now become the centre of your personal life, too (**Revelation 5:6**):

“...in the midst of the throne ... a Lamb”.

You may now live spiritually in the strength of the Lamb of God just as Abel did, who by faith approached God *through the Lamb* (Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12.15). Every day of your life may now have the headline of **Ezekiel 46:15: “The Lamb...every morning”** (see also John 6:57; Romans 12:1–2). The more you accept His love by faith, which exceeds all understanding, you are going to be increasingly ready to walk the way of the Lamb – by prayerfully beholding His image in the Holy Scriptures through the Holy Spirit (but not in a sensual or mystic manner!). You are going to be increasingly ready to put on the mind of the Lamb and thus reveal the victory of the Lamb! For it is the Lamb who has overcome the dragon!

Isaiah 53:1.3–5

**“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were,
our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne *our griefs* and
carried *our sorrows*; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

But He was wounded *for our transgressions*, He was bruised *for our iniquities*. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”