

## The Lamb of God: Old and New Testament

Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph 2021

### **I. The Binding of Isaac: Genesis 22:2-18**

- a. “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.”
- b. Land of Moriah
- c. Isaac carried the wood for his own offering.
- d. The word used to describe Isaac, *na'ar*, can mean either child or young man, but the fact that he can carry enough wood to build a large fire suggests that he's on the older side of that range, while Abraham is now over 100 years old.
- e. God stops Abraham from offering Isaac, and God will later forbid the Israelites from offering human sacrifices (Deut. 18:10).
- f. “God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering,” but they find a lamb.
- g. God renews the covenant promises to Abraham: “I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”
- h. “by your seed”
- i. The obedience of Abraham and Isaac is rewarded with a blessing to all nations.

### **II. Passover Lamb: Exodus 11:4-12:13**

- a. Before the Exodus, the final plague is the death of the first-born sons in the land of Egypt, not just of the Egyptians.
- b. Each household shall take a male lamb, a year old, without blemish, kill them in the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, Nisan, and put some of the blood on the doorposts and lintel of the house, then eat the lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
- c. The blood is spread with a bunch of hyssop. -Ex 12:22
- d. The first-born sons are redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

### **III. The Feast of Passover: Exodus 12:14-28**

- a. The Israelites still commemorate the Passover every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan with the Feast of Passover.
- b. They eat roasted lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
- c. When they still had the Temple they would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast and offer the lamb at the Temple. The lamb would then be prepared by securing it to a pole along its back and another along its front legs, in the shape of the “t,” or a cross.
- d. They would also recount the story of the Passover and Exodus from Egypt.

#### **IV. The Baptism at the Jordan**

- a. St. John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God, which we quote in the Mass.
- b. Isaac was “your only son, whom you love,” and Jesus is “my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt. 3:17), and the “only Son from the Father” (Jn 1:14).
- c. The Holy Spirit then descended upon Him in the form of a dove.
- d. Jesus “takes away the sins of the world,” not just Israel, so He can be said to be a blessing to the nations.

#### **V. The Lamb of God: The Book of Revelation**

- a. One of the main titles for Jesus in Revelation is “Lamb.”
- b. Often He appears as “the Lamb who was slain.” –Rev 13:8
- c. Jesus conquers Satan and the powers of the world not as “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (another title of the Lord), but as the “Lamb who was slain,” for Christ’s victory is found in the Cross.
- d. Everything in the Old Testament points forward to Christ.
- e. Christ is the blessing to the nations – Rev 7:9
- f. He is the Lamb who redeems us from death – Rev 14:4
- g. We are saved and our sins forgiven through His blood – Rev 7:14 & 13:8
- h. He will give us life and satisfy every need – Rev 7:16-17

#### **VI. The Wedding Feast of the Lamb: Revelation 19-22**

- a. Revelation culminates with the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in chapters 19-22.
- b. “Blessed are those called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” –19:9
- c. The Bride is the Church, clothed in the “righteous deeds of the saints.”
- d. The “lamb” is sacrificial imagery; it reminds us of the willing sacrifice of Isaac, the Passover lambs which redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, and every lamb offered in thanksgiving or atonement for sins.
- e. Jesus is the true “Lamb” who willingly sacrifices Himself to save us from slavery to sin, redeem us from death, and unite us to Himself.
- f. The Wedding Feast or Banquet will only be complete after the Second Coming and the Resurrection of the Dead, when Christ will be all in all.
- g. However, every time we participate in the Mass we participate in the Heavenly Banquet, the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.
- h. The Mass is a memorial of both the Cross and the Resurrection, and the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of the living Christ, Resurrected and Ascended to heaven.

***Next: Eucharistic Miracles on October 21 at 6:30 PM***