

Series: The Gospel of John

Day 19: There is the lamb of God!

Prayer:

Let's pray together:

O Father in Heaven, reveal Your Son to us today, the Lamb of God, to those who do not yet believe after 19 chapters so that they can believe. But also reveal it to those who already believe so that it can strengthen their faith and that they could cry out to others: There is the Lamb of God!

Amen

Overview of this section:

- Chapters 1-12 (Jesus public ministry)
- Chapters 13-17 (The disciple's preparation for their ministry)
- Chapters 18-21 (The crucifixion events)

In our 21 days by John we are now in the third section of the book, everything has built up to this.

So far, the way I walked through the chapters was something of a microscope method. I took a piece of the chapter set out the structure and then used colours word for word, deeper and deeper and in that way we got the message.

We are going to have to look at this chapter with a telescope. A telescope works differently than a microscope that makes small pieces bigger he takes something big and makes it clearer, so we can see it better.

Chapter 19: There is the Lamb of God

The chapter begins where Jesus is whipped and mocked and then Pilates says:

*3 "See, I am bringing him out to you
that you may know that I find no guilt in him."*

The crowd shouts, "Crucify him, crucify him" and Pilates tries to stop it and unexpectedly between the narration it says in verse 14:

*14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover.
It was about the sixth hour. [about noon]*

And then the crowd shouted again "away with him, away with him, crucify him" and Pilates gives in under pressure, and agrees to have him crucified.

During the crucifixion, John tells of quite a few incidents that fulfil the word, until Jesus finally calls out "I thirst" and exhales with the words: "It is finished."

and then something happens that the other gospels do not tell, something so important to John that he says the following about it:

35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.

And remember this is exactly why he wrote the gospel for us:

31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

And when you read this at first, what John is trying to highlight here does not seem to important. He refers to these words:

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

But be careful you are standing too close with your telescope, what you are looking at is too big, you only see a small piece of a large truth step with me back to where John stood when he looked at this when he wrote this.

He begins his gospel with the words:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1).

and so, we stand back to the beginning of everything and look through our telescope, the wonder of the telescope with which we look through today is that he not only makes something great clearer but he looks through time and so we see the fall of man and a short while later Kian's failed sacrifice. And as we zoom in, we see an altar with a son Isaac on it and his father Abraham looking with teary eyes through his binoculars and what he sees is written down for us in Hebrews 11:19

19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (Hebrews 11:19)

And suddenly we hear the enlightened child voice of Isaac who cried out there is a ram that could die in my place. And then we zoom in for another 400 years and see a father picking out a lamb that his eldest son should catch. We hear him call out: There is the lamb we

should slaughter, the lamb was the first born, the one without blemish whose legs were never broken just as God commanded. And if he smears the blood with a hyssop twig on the door frame, he knows his son will not die tonight.

40 years later we are just in time to see the Jordan still parted, the nation just passed through, and again we hear: "there is the lamb." For the first time they celebrate Easter again and 40 years of manna from heaven stop falling.

And so, we zoom past every year that the high priest brought a sacrifice for the sin of the people on the great day of atonement.

In our next focus brings the sound of an alphabet psalm exclaiming with the words that John would quote hundreds of years later in Chapter 19:

*20 He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken. (Psalm 34:20).*

We zoom past prophets who anxiously watch the people fall further and further into sin and God who instructs them to tell the people look ahead, a lamb is coming. And as we proceed through the Gospel of John we focus on John the Baptist as he raises his hands and exclaims emotionally in John 1:29...

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

And when we look in chapter 3, we hear the cry in the desert, look up to the cross there is the lamb of God. And here in chapter 19 the lamb lies dead beside the cross and we hear John testify:

*33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was **already dead**, they did not break his legs.*

Suddenly we understand why Pilates had to testify that He was sinless and why it had to be highlighted that it was written down during the preparation of the Passover. Jesus was the Passover lamb who had to pay for our sins once and for all. And if his bones are not broken - it is the final confirmation of it.

But the telescope can still zoom, who is standing there preaching? It looks like Peter and we hear him say:

*18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the **precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world...(1 Peter 1:18-20)*

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:22-24)

And then we see Paul dictating a letter to the church in Corinth:

*20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20).*

And then we see John, the author of this gospel, lying on the ground as if dead. At Patmos he got a special set of binocular that can look into the future, where he showed us the lamb in the Gospel of John with his 7 miracles and 7 “I am” statements. Here he does it with 7 visions of 7 each, the perfect number, and thereby he testifies to us, there is the alpha and the omega, the lamb of God.

Just listen to Revelation 5:

8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.... 13... “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And if we zoom in further into the future, we see people dressed in white, some of them even look familiar:

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”

14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

And if we look a little further ahead, we see why the people got the white clothes, because someone is calling out: There is the lamb He is dressed like a groom. And we hear:

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” —...9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

And then we just stand in awe and look at the extreme that the telescope can go.

*23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is **the Lamb**. (Revelation 21:23)*

*1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of **the Lamb**. (Revelation 22:1).*

And then we understand what John is trying to tell us better in chapter 19. We read again from verse 33.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

*34 But one of the soldiers **pierced his side with a spear**, and at once there came out **blood** and **water**.*

*35 He who **saw** it has borne **witness**—his **testimony is true**, and he knows that he is **telling the truth**—**that you also may believe**.*

*36 For these things took place that the **Scripture might be fulfilled**:
“Not one of his bones will be broken.”*

Reflection

What does it mean to you that they did not break His legs? Do you really see the Lamb of God? Do you truly believe he took away your sins?

Thanksgiving

When John saw this he had to testify so that you can believe. Your gratitude should now also overflow to bear witness: There is the Lamb of God! so that other believe.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Come O Lamb of God, Yes come soon.

Amen.