

3. THE LAMB TO LOOK UPON

John the Baptist's testimony is a comforting testimony for us to "behold" because it assures us of Jesus' eternal nature and control over all things.

John explains how Jesus was to come after him. John was the prophet given the job of announcing the coming of the Messiah. All the prophets looked forward to this day.

He was to come after but had surpassed him. Jesus wasn't just another prophet but his life and work was unique in the salvation of mankind. John recognised that Jesus was greater than him in every way and that he needed to get out of the way for Jesus to be seen. That's good advice for us all.

John testifies that Jesus was before him. Later in time of ministry but Jesus is the Lamb of God - He is the divine Son of God sent to save us. He was before time, came into time and will be worshipped eternally beyond time!

This is the Lamb of God we are to behold during this Pandemic, in challenging times for us as a Church, as families and personally. Can he help? He is able to do more than we ask or imagine! For He was the Lamb on the Altar (of Calvary) making peace with God for us and making peace available to us in all circumstances. He is now the Lamb on the throne of Heaven. All things are being brought under His feet. All power and glory are rightly His. He provides all His followers need for the refreshing of their souls.

Are you looking to the Lamb of God?
"Behold" – look intently every day!

Pastor Andrew

Rochford Congregational Church CHURCH AT HOME Sunday 7th February 2021

Sing or Read the Hymn and Chorus

Jesus, the name high over all, in hell, or earth, or sky:
Angels and men before it fall, and devil's fear and fly.

Jesus, the name to sinners dear, the name to sinners given;
It scatters all their guilty fear, it turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus, the prisoner's fetters breaks, and bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls He speaks, and life into the dead.

O that the world might taste and see the riches of His grace!
The arms of love that compass me, would all mankind embrace.

His only righteousness I show, His saving truth proclaim:
'tis all business here below, to cry: "Behold the Lamb!"

Happy, if with my latest breath, I may but gasp His name:
Preach Him to all, and cry in death: "Behold, behold the Lamb!"

All hail the Lamb enthroned on high,
His praise shall be our battle cry.
He reigns victorious, for ever glorious
His name is Jesus, He is the Lord.

Prayer

Our loving heavenly Father,
We come to you through the way you made possible by sending your Son to take away our sins and make your love known to us. Thank you for all your blessings. Help me to remember them even in these difficult times. May all our friends and family know your presence, comfort, and strength through these times. Help us all to keep our focus upon you, your promises, and the finishing line we run towards. In Jesus Name. Amen.

You may like to say “**The Lord’s Prayer**” at this point

Bible Verses for today

“For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water” (Revelation 7.17)

*“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”
(1 Corinthians 5.7b)*

Read John 1.29-30

Jesus: The Lamb of God

Are you weary of the news headlines? While we need to know what is going on in our World, we need a better vista. We need to look up – to look to Jesus – but how do we do that? The names of our Lord are a great help in re-focussing our view and faith in these difficult times.

One of these titles used by John the Baptist with its roots in the Old Testament is Lamb of God. John declared this title as Jesus approached, “*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!*”

When we “behold” him – we see He is:

1. THE LAMB ON THE ALTAR

i. Provided by God

Abraham took Isaac up Mount Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice. But God provided a substitute sacrifice, in the place of Isaac. God sent His Son Jesus to be our sacrificial substitute at Calvary.

ii. Passover sacrifice

The offering of sacrifices became part of God’s people’s worship and at Passover – a special sacrifice was offered as they reflected on God’s great deliverance from Egypt. The lamb chosen had to be perfect. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 5.7 that Christ is our Passover Lamb, and Peter recalls how his sacrifice was that of a perfect life, “without blemish” (1 Peter 1.19).

2. THE LAMB ON THE THRONE

i. Praised in glory

The Lamb that was slain is on the throne in Heaven and all Heaven sings the praise of what He has achieved as the sacrifice for Sin.

ii. Providing guidance

We are used to a lamb being Shepherded along with a flock but Heaven’s description is somewhat different. The Lamb is not feeble but a powerful leader of his people, leading them to springs of living water (Revelation 7.17).

The Lamb is upon the throne and his guidance brings his people to the best of pastures. His followers are willing to go wherever He leads (Revelation 14.4)