

Lamb
GOD *of*

YESTERDAY

TODAY & FOREVER

B E N N Y H I N N

Lamb
GOD
of

Y E S T E R D A Y

T O D A Y & F O R E V E R



CLARION CALL MARKETING

LAMB OF GOD: YESTERDAY, TODAY, & FOREVER

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INTRODUCTION

THE INVITATION OF THE AGES



Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

—JOHN 1:29

*W*HY DID JESUS CHRIST DIE ON the cross? What caused the Son of Man to do the unthinkable, to give His life as a substitute for each of us?

Questions about Jesus Christ, especially about His death, burial, and resurrection, continue to this day. I've written this book specifically to respond to the many inquiries about Jesus Christ that men, women, and children around the globe are struggling to answer, now more than ever. If anything, the increased shaking of the world's financial, political, and territorial foundations are forcing even more people to look to the Cross for solutions. The timing couldn't be better.

I understand the volume of questions, because I've spent a lifetime seeking the same answers. And the Cross is simply not taught much in today's churches. The response from my book *The Blood* helped me understand to an even greater extent how hungry people really are to know more about this momentous, historical, spiritual, and celebrated

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event that is often simply not discussed or taught. Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross?

The story of Christ's crucifixion has perhaps become so familiar to both believers and nonbelievers that it has often lost its ability to inspire grief or even to stir any great emotion. Somehow, through the centuries, mankind has attempted to sanitize history's pivotal moment. We've taken away the horrible public shame and the smashing blows of the whip. We've attempted to avoid the savage thrust of the spear into Jesus's side. In so doing, too often the Easter story ignores God's supernatural love as it was poured out among mankind.

In the world today there are so many questions about the Cross, yet I believe it is time for men, women, and children everywhere to be told about the triumph of God's plan, expressed two centuries ago through the Holy Spirit-inspired word of John's Gospel: "*Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*"

HISTORY'S TURNING POINT

No matter how people get to the place of seeking deeper answers about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, they have arrived at the place of all answers and the Answer. Everything in history, before and afterward, points toward Calvary's cross. History is, after all, HIS-story. Mankind, almost universally, uses the

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Gregorian (and sometimes the Julian) calendar which separates time by BC (before Christ) and AD (an abbreviation for *anno Domini* in Latin, which translates "in the year of our Lord," referring to the approximate birth year of Jesus Christ).

Even politically correct attempts to translate BC to BCE (before the common era) and AD to CE (common era) have not been able to diminish the fact that the Savior stands boldly as the center point for all mankind.

Certainly, the Bible points to the centrality of Christ Jesus. People sometimes talk about the differences in the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. But Christianity teaches that the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament. God may have revealed Himself to us in progressive stages, but He is eternal and unchangeable.

Some people seem to misapprehend the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, as if there is some major difference between the two. Christ Jesus, however, said that He came to fulfill the law, not to abolish it.

The Bible doesn't begin with the New Testament. It is an integrated document from Genesis through Revelation. Virtually every page of the Old Testament points to the New.

"In the beginning was the Word," the Gospel of John begins, referring to Jesus as the Word, *"and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (1:1). Having established Christ's exalted place in all eternity, John—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—continues to pen these powerful truths: *"The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men"* (1:2–4).

But why would Jesus do what He did? What caused Him to leave heaven's splendor to be born a baby in Bethlehem? What could have possibly motivated Him to endure a life of temptation and peril as He sought to call, disciple, and prepare a handful of followers who would eventually be sent out to shake the world's traditions to the core and bring hope and healing to the masses? Why would He willingly go

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through the shame and vile, inhuman treatment at the hands of people who didn't (or couldn't) grasp the historic event in which they were participating? What is the true story behind His death? What happened afterward that has eternal consequences for you and me?

As you look for answers, dear reader, gaze toward the Christ of Calvary, for that is the central point of all truth, wisdom, and knowledge. It is that truth that has changed the world's hardest men and women into God's most effective witnesses. It is that truth that has played an important role in the panorama of people who have yearned to be free from totalitarianism and human bondage. It has changed the course of history, kings, and great military leaders.

Everything before and after Calvary points to what the Savior did on the cross. Because of His sacrifice, and so much more, we have the Answer to the most pressing, troubling, life-changing questions you will ever have. He is the blessed Christ of the Cross, and what an eternal difference He has already made in the life of every believer. That's why we can sing:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.¹

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THE LAMB OF GOD: 332 PROPHECIES



*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name
whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

—ACTS 10:43

*T*HE OLD TESTAMENT WAS GIVEN by the Holy Spirit to the prophets of old and was completed approximately four hundred fifty years before Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is especially exciting for Bible scholars as they understand how more than three hundred prophecies, many in graphic detail, were meticulously predicted throughout the Old Testament, then astonishingly fulfilled one by one through the birth, life, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension of only one person in all of history, Jesus Christ.

When studying the New Testament, I believe a clear understanding of the Old Testament is vital, since the Old Testament is incomplete without the New. It's like this: The New Testament in the Old is concealed, and the Old in the New is revealed. It's imperative that you have both!

Let's talk about how the Old and New are amazingly complete as they announce and fulfill the messianic prophecies. Scholars cite the

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chances of one person fulfilling a mere eight of the messianic prophecies as one in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Josh McDowell writes of these amazing odds:

For one person to fulfill 48 of these prophecies, the number becomes staggering—1 chance in 10 to the 157th power (1 with 157 zeros after it). Add to that the 250 other prophecies and it becomes impossible for any other person except Jesus to ever fit that particular sequence of time and events.¹

PROPHECIES AND FULFILLMENTS

There are many wonderful predictions in the Old Testament which offered great detail in pointing toward Jesus Christ's birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. For additional study, I will give a more complete list of 332 of these messianic prophecies at the end of this chapter. Here are a few that I've detailed:

The Messiah would rise from Abraham's lineage. This was outlined in Genesis 18:18 (written approximately fourteen hundred years before Christ's birth): "*Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*" (Also read Genesis 12:3.)

This is also a matter of historic certainty, as described in Acts 3:25: "*Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*" (Also read Galatians 3:8.)

In addition to Abraham's bloodline, Jesus would specifically descend from Abraham's son, Isaac. Genesis 17:19 explains: "*And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his*