

**March 17, 2025: (originally prepared by Daniel Schreck, Jr. for March 8, 2022)**



201 Behold The Lamb Of God-Coro.mp3

**John 1:29** *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

In Leviticus Chapter 1, God prescribed the manner in which sin would be atoned by the Israelites. An Israelite would bring his sin offering, a male animal from the flock or herd without blemish, before the Lord. The Israelite would then lay his hand on the head of the animal, identifying himself with it and symbolically laying his sins on it. Afterwards, the animal would be killed and its blood thrown on the sides of the altar, bringing atonement for the person's sins. However, the animal sacrifice brought only partial atonement, therefore necessitating future animal sacrifices on an on-going basis. The atonement was incomplete and true transformation never took place.

When Jesus came as the Lamb of God, He lived the sinless life (1 Peter 2:22) so that He could be our sacrifice without blemish or flaw, doing what no man could do and fulfilling the Law on our behalf. By giving Himself as our sacrifice, our perfect Lamb, He was able to come as He "who takes away the sin of the world" and who provides "justification and life for all men" (Romans 5:18). Not only that, but Jesus' sacrifice did something no animal sacrifice could ever do: it brought full atonement for all sin, completely eliminating the need for future sacrifices; Jesus' sacrifice was "once for all" (Romans 6:10). And because of this, we are no longer under the dominion and rule of sin (Romans 6:14), but are free to live to the glory of God as the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.

Just as the Israelite laid his hand on the head of his sacrifice, identifying himself with it and laying his sins on it, we must identify ourselves with Christ to take part in the full atonement and freedom from sin that He offers us. By doing so, God no longer sees our sin and filth when He looks at us, rather, He sees the blood of Christ and His righteousness. We are fully transformed and given a "new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Christ, the Lamb of God, offers us this; let us claim it.