

## **God's Little Lamb**

### **Luke 2:25-35**

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the **Consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen **the Lord's Christ**. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in **the Child Jesus**, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen **Your salvation** 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." NKJV

The names given to Jesus in the Scripture are many. They describe His characteristics and actions. There are many books written on the subject of the names of Jesus.

In our passage today there are at least four of the almost 100 names by which He is called.

The name I want to look at is "Your Salvation" or the "Lord's Salvation" by which we understand He is the salvation that the Lord has brought or given.

Luke 2:10-11 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord. NKJV

Matt 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**" NKJV

The concept of Jesus as Savior to the average American might mean that by His great power or force might rescue us. But that is not it. Let us look at this idea that Jesus came to be Savior.

- I. Seen in the Old Testament.
  - A. At the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden.
    1. Gen 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
  - B. From the creation God taught man that animal sacrifice was necessary for acceptance with God.
    1. Cain and Abel.
    2. Gen 4:3 ¶ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an

offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 ¶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

3. The first thing Noah did when he got off the ark was offer a sacrifice to the Lord.
4. Gen 8: 20 ¶ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma.

C. The case of Abraham offering up his own son. Gen 22:3-14

1. 3 ¶ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
2. 11 ¶ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

D. The Passover lamb.

1. Exodus 12
  2. All of this elaborate language concerning the Passover was to set us up for Jesus and His becoming our Passover.
  3. 1 Cor 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
- E. In Hebrews 10:5 the writer quotes from Psalm 40:6 and comments on it.
1. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.
- F. The Isaiah 53 passage.
1. 4 ¶ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
  2. 10 ¶ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

## II. The New Testament

### A. In the Gospel of John

1. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
2. John 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

### B. Peter

1. 1Pe 1:18 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without

blemish and without spot. 1Pe 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

You see it was God's purpose to save you from the results of your sin and the from the power of sin in your life.

This is what Christmas is about. God loved you so much that He sent His Only Begotten Son into the world to become the Sacrificial Lamb of God.

He died in your place on the cross.