

Study based on Sermon preached at Broadstairs on Sunday 22nd September 2024:-
Revelation chapter 14, verses 1 – 5 - Heavenly Worship:-

The Bible contains many examples of ‘threads’ which run right through the scriptures. In this reading from the last Book in the Bible we can follow one of these threads, that of “the Lamb” making links right back to the Book of Genesis.

Read Revelation chapter 4 verse 2 to chapter 5 verse 10:- This is a full description of the worship pictured in Revelation chapter 14 and gives an idea of the glory and majesty of the worship in heaven of the Lord God Almighty (chapter 4, verse 8). And here before the throne of God the Father is “*a Lamb standing as though it had been slain . . .*” (chapter 5, verse 6).

The Lamb:- A name of Our Lord Jesus Christ along with ‘The Lion of the Tribe of Judah’ and ‘The Root of David’ (chapter 5, verse 5). It is important to understand why the name of the Lamb is used here and elsewhere in the Bible to refer to our Lord Jesus Christ! So we will follow this ‘thread’ back through scripture and see what we can learn from it.

The key is **1 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 7 - “Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us”**. Christ *is* the Passover Lamb. The one slain for us on the cross on that first ‘Good Friday’. The Gospel of John states specifically that at the very time that the Lord died on the cross the Passover lambs were being killed in the Temple – see John chapter 19, verse 14. That Christ is the true ‘Passover Lamb’ is the reason why John the Baptist could point to Him and say “*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John chapter 1, verse 29).

So we need to ask “what was the meaning of the original ‘Passover Lamb’?”

Read Exodus chapter 12, verses 1 – 14:- Note that the blood of the lamb was to be used as a marker on the door-posts and lintel of the house. A sign that those dwelling there belonged to the Lord. It was the shed blood of the Lamb which marked those who were redeemed.

A further confirmation that Christ is the new Passover Lamb is in Exodus chapter 12, verse 46 “*you shall not break a bone of it*”. Remember that the soldiers at the crucifixion broke the legs of the two thieves but when they came to Jesus they did not break his legs. (see John chapter 19, verse 33).

The description and meaning of the sacrifice of the new Passover Lamb is given in that well-known passage **Isaiah chapter 53 verses 1 – 12:-** Again this refers to “*a lamb that is led to the slaughter . . .*” (verse 7). More than this it gives the reason for His death “*when he makes himself an offering for sin*” (verse 10).

To follow the theme of the sacrificial lamb back into the Book of Genesis we need to look at the story of ‘The sacrifice of Isaac’ - **Read Genesis chapter 22, verses 1 – 14** note verses 7 – 8 and 10 – 14.

God Himself provided the lamb for the sacrifice. God Himself “gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John chapter 3, verse 16)

*Jesus! the name high over all,
In hell or earth or sky;
Angels and men before it fall,
And devils fear and fly.*

*His only righteousness I show,
His saving grace proclaim;
'Tis all my business here below
To cry Behold the Lamb!*

Charles Wesley 1749