



The Depth of
the Cross

John 1:29

Sometimes words cannot adequately explain the whole story or event

- Words need a common definition
- Words need context so we can understand what the intent is
- Take the word minute (MIN ut) or minute (my NOOT)

Sometimes words cannot adequately explain the whole story or event

- Take the word exploded
 - The pop cans exploded in garage vs. The fireworks factory exploded
- Or the word catastrophe
 - Their bedrooms are a catastrophe vs. the tornado left the town in a catastrophe

Sometimes words cannot adequately explain the whole story or event

- What if something is so completely new without any existing definition?
 - Can you imagine trying to tell someone in early 1900's about the internet?
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins
 - Simple sentence

Sometimes words cannot adequately explain the whole story or event

- For God to help us get a clearer picture of all Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, he gave Israel Moses' Law
 - It was a set of instructions on how God wanted His people to think, understand, live

Sometimes words cannot adequately explain the whole story or event

- God intended the Law to point to the future Messiah
- But it was also a picture of all the Messiah would bring about for His lost and dying world

Scripture

- **John 1:29 NIV**, The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look (*Behold*), the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

A simple statement – “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- One we can easily read and understand the words and the simple meaning
- Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) - Lo, the Lamb of God, who is taking away the sin of the world
 - Lo sounds like an ominous word
 - Lo your mother is looking for you!
 - Lo Luke, I am your father!

A simple statement – “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- Lo in Greek means; literally – “Be sure to see!”
 - Don't miss this, It is an observable, objective fact
 - Something that should not be neglected
 - To bring forward something new and unexpected

A simple statement – “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- In this simple word John wants to make sure that you pay extremely close attention to what he is about to say
 - Listen and observe carefully
 - Be amazed, be astonished, be in wonder
 - Don't let your attention wander or get distracted
 - It is vitally important to understanding what God is doing for you and saying to you

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- Think of this statement and what it would have meant to the Jewish people who heard it
- John is saying, “The promised Messiah you have been praying for, hoping for, and looking for is here.”
- “Here is the Lamb of God promised.”

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- There were all sorts of people around John at this time
- Some followers of John, Some just curious, Some haters looking for a reason to accuse him in the people's eyes
- People probably thought, "Can this really be the Messiah? He doesn't look much like a warrior. He looks like a simple man like us."

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- Atonement refers to the needed reconciliation between sinful mankind (*you*) and the holy just God
 - Synonyms are reconciliation, to mend, to repay
 - The Bible, when atonement is talked about, means that a price has been paid for our sins that has the result of bringing sinful us together with Holy God

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- We recognize God as both King and Father
 - Atonement must be made to our King because there has been a transgression against His Law or command
 - Atonement to our Father because our relationship has been torn

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- What did the Jewish mind think when they heard, “The Lamb of God”?
 - A spotless, innocent, one-year old lamb was sacrificed every morning and evening to remind the people that they always needed a sacrifice

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- What did the Jewish mind think when they heard, “The Lamb of God”?
 - They would think and consider the Passover Lamb
 - They would remember the words of Abraham in **Genesis 22:8 NIV**, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering”

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- Behold your deliverer, substitute, sin bearer, Messiah is here
- That's just what Jesus provided on the cross
- Jesus Christ on the cross absorbs your wrath of God, the penalty for our rebellion

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- **Romans 1:18 NIV**, “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness”
 - It's a transaction between the father and the son
 - The father pours out his anger towards our sin on Christ, and his wrath is fully satisfied
 - And because of that, the guilty sinner who trusts in Christ is declared free before God

The one planned from the foundation of creation for the atonement of sinful mankind is here

- Scripture tells us we must be “in Christ Jesus”
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
 - Noah and his family had to be in the arc to be safe from God’s wrath on mankind during the flood
- We have been reconciled to God both as King and Father through the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- **Hebrews 10:1-4 NIV**, The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. 4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- What would the Jewish mind think of with this statement, “that carries away the sin of the world”?
- The Day of Atonement found in **Leviticus 16**
 - A day of intense prayer and fasting reflecting on their lives lived the past year looking forward
 - A day of repentance before God
 - A day of renewed focus upon God Almighty

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- The Day of Atonement found in **Leviticus 16**
 - A day the High Priest stood between a Holy God and sinful man seeking mercy before God's Holy of Holies

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- Part of the Day of Atonement were two goats
 - **Psalms 103:12 NLT**, He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
 - Is this really true? What does this look like? How do I know?
- The goats were to look as similar in size and appearance as possible

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- One goat was selected and then sacrificed
 - No laying on of hands receiving the guilt of sin
 - The blood of this goat was for cleansing and allowed a sinful High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies through the veil separating it from the rest of the Temple

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- There was in the Holy of Holies God's Mercy Seat represented by the lid of the Arc of the Covenant
- The mercy seat was special because it was the place God's glory appeared when He wanted to communicate with Israel (**Exodus 25:22**)
- The symbol of His divine presence appeared over the mercy seat like a glowing light called the "Shekinah"

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- He was in essence standing before the throne of God seeking mercy for himself and a sinful nation and people
 - He could only enter this place once a year on the Day of Atonement, cleansed by the blood of the sacrifice

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- **Matthew 27:50-52a NLT**, 50 Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, 52 and tombs opened.
- **Hebrews 4:16 NLT**, Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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- The second goat was called the scapegoat or Azazel (*the goat has gone*)
 - The High Priest would lay his hands on the head of this goat and confess all the sins of the nation
 - In essence transferring the sin debt to the goat

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- The second goat was called the scapegoat or Azazel (*the goat has gone*)
 - A lesser priest led this goat outside of town a considerable distance and released it
 - The priest watched that goat until he could no longer see even a speck of it in the distance
 - The goat was never seen again

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- The second goat was called the scapegoat or Azazel (*the goat has gone*)
 - The priest would return to the Temple and declare the sins of the nation had been removed and never to be seen again
 - A great celebration followed

This is the one who not only provides atonement, but also carries our sin away

- It also acts a way to remind us to remove our sins from our person space
- Not only are our sins forgiven, but they have also been removed from us never to be seen by God again
- They never come between us and a Holy God ever again
- We are truly free

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried our cross
 - **John 19:17 NLT**, Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha).
- He carried away the sting of death
 - **1st Corinthians 15:55 NLT**, O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried away our separation from God
 - **Romans 5:10 NIV**, For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried away our hopelessness
 - **Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**, For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried away our spiritual death
 - **Ephesians 2:5 NLT**, Even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried away our weaknesses
 - **1st John 4:4 NLT**, You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Not only did Jesus carry away our sin debt, but also the effects of sin

- He carried away our loneliness and isolation
 - **Matthew 28:20b KJV**, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
 - Not a complete list, not even close

Just as Isaac was a miracle baby carrying all the promises of God to Abraham, so Jesus carries all the promises of God for us

- Just as the High Priest was the only one to enter the Holy of Holies, so Jesus was the only one qualified to enter and remove the veil allowing us into the mercies of God
- Just as the goat of Azazel carried away the sins of Israel, so Jesus carried away all of our sins, never to be seen again

Just as Isaac was a miracle baby carrying all the promises of God to Abraham, so Jesus carries all the promises of God for us

- Just as Jesus entered into the presence of God the Father, so we too will one day stand complete before Him accepted and without fear
- What a day that will be



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the Cross

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