

Studies in I Peter (22)

The Responsibility of Salvation

Introduction

- A. That which is most important in our life, both horizontally and vertically, is found in relationships: Our relationships with one another, and our relationship with God.
- B. In times of testing and trial this truth becomes crystal clear. Our comfort and help, in such a time, is derived from our relationship with God and our family and friends.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1

- C. In our text Peter reminds his readers that the very tap-root of their daily life and spiritual existence was found in Jesus Christ -- who offered Himself as their sacrifice.

The Text: Redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

I Peter 1:18-20

I. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Typified.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. Genesis 4:4

Comment: From the brief record in Genesis we gain the impression that God had instructed Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel in what offering would please Him. It is significant that the Lord Himself had clothed Adam and Eve with the skins of slain animals (3:21). When Abel presented an animal sacrifice he was accepted of God. From other comments in the Bible we recognize Abel's offering as a type of the coming Messiah.

But ye are come . . . to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:24

II. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Prophesied.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father, and he said, Here and I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself with a lamb for a burnt offering. So they went both of them together. Genesis 22:7,8

Comment: Although Abraham did not know the significance of his statement to Isaac, we find in his words a prophesy of God's eternal plan. Abraham knew the Redeemer was to come through the line of Isaac. He continued to believe God's promise even though he was told to sacrifice his son. In Hebrews we are told this event pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ.

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac . . . accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from whence also he received him in a figure. Hebrews 11:17-19

III. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Slain.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house . . . And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. Exodus 12:3-6

Comment: Along with these instructions for the Passover the people were told to sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the door of their house as their protection. This sacrifice was to be done yearly.

IV. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Personified.

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. Isaiah 53:6,7

Comment: In this passage there is clarification that the lamb is but a type of a person -- upon whom all our iniquity was to be placed. That person was to be our substitute before God.

V. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Identified.

And the next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29

Comment: John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament. It was fitting that he would identify the Lord Jesus as the Lamb of God for by doing so he saw in Him all that the Old Testament prophesied concerning the Messiah.

VI. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Explained.

Redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. I Peter 1:18,19

Comment: In these brief words Peter clarifies the basic truths of the atonement: the Lord Jesus was the Messiah -- the typified Lamb, he points out His purity and obedience, His death, the redemption He obtained, and the vicarious nature of His shed blood.

VII. Jesus Christ -- the Lamb Magnified and Glorified.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain . . . And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood . . . Revelation 5:6-9

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him. And they shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads. Revelation 22:3,4

Comment: We must join the heavenly host and recognize Jesus Christ as worthy of all praise. Every knee will bow to Him and confess His worth.