

**Just Checking In #202**  
**December 2018**  
**The Promise and Pictures of Christmas**

Christmas is all about

God's Eternal Promise

God's Perfect Plan

God's Precious Son

God's Sovereign Power

God's Amazing Grace

Since the first promise of a Savior given in Eden, the world waited for God's perfect sacrifice that would take our sins away. God is a Promise Maker! We have God's promises on paper in black and white. But God is also a Picture Maker, giving us pictures in full color to help us see and understand those Promises more clearly.

Let's look at God's promises and pictures this Christmas.

You can't understand Christmas without what comes before & follows after! Phil 2:5-10 Rev 1:17-18

The Throne Who He is

The Manger How He came

The Cross Why He Came

The Empty Tomb What He Accomplished

The Throne Our Response

Let's begin in the beginning as we see the promise and the picture unfold.

***GOD'S ETERNAL PROMISE AND PLAN***

***From eternity past, before time began, God had planned to save a people for Himself.***

***He revealed that plan in time through the promises and pictures revealed in the scriptures.***

**Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*

**Titus 1:2** *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began*

**1 Corinthians 2:7** *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world to our glory:*

**2 Timothy 1:9** *Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began*

**1 Peter 1:19-21** *Christ, the Lamb...foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

**Ephesians 3:11** *According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*

## **THE FIRST PICTURE OF HIS SALVATION PLAN SHAME COVERING LAMB**

### **ADAM'S LAMB IN EDEN THE SHAME COVERING LAMB Genesis 3:1-21**

- 1 The first glory - a perfect creation Genesis 1-2
- 2 The first lie - of the serpent Genesis 3:1-5
- 3 The first sin - rebellion of the man and the woman Genesis 3:6
- 4 The first shame Genesis 3:7-8
- 5 The first seeking – Savior Genesis 3:9
- 6 The first consequences Genesis 3:16-19, 24
- 7 The **first earthly promise** of a Savior **Genesis 3:15 (Titus 1:2 Heaven's Eternal Promise)**
- 8 The **first sacrifice Gen 3:21** an innocent lamb to cover the shame of man due to his sin  
Mercy – Not getting what I deserve Grace – Getting what I don't deserve

### **The First Picture!**

The lamb who covers our sin and shame

The lamb's innocence, purity, death, sufficiency

**Isa 61:10** sin covered

**Zechariah 3:1-5** shame covered

**Romans 3:21-26** righteousness comes to and upon the guilty

**Romans 5:17** gift of righteousness

**His Promise preceded our Problem Titus 1:2 Shame Covering Lamb**

**God's promise of eternal life predates time!**

**His Remedy preceded our Ruin Rev 13:8 Robed in His righteousness**

**The Lamb slain from the creation of the world!**

**His plan determined it,**

**His love promised it,**

**His justice demanded it,**

**His mercy provided it,**

**His faithfulness fulfilled it,**

**His sovereignty accomplished it!**

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## **THE SECOND PICTURE OF HIS SALVATION PLAN SUBSTITUTIONARY RAM**

**ISAAC'S RAM ON MORIAH THE SUBSTITUTIONARY LAMB Gen 22:13**

**Promise Genesis 17:19, 21 Isaac the Seed from whom the blessing will come**

**Picture Genesis 22:1-13**

The sacrificing father giving up his beloved son

The obedient son carrying the wood up the mountain of Moriah

The question "Where is the lamb"

The answer "God will provide for himself the lamb"

The offering Full commitment and sacrifice of both Father and Son

The provision God provides the substitutionary sacrifice

The substitution The innocent substitute at the perfect time

**Substitution... In the place of... Genesis 22:13**

**2 Cor 5:21 made sin for us... made the righteousness of God in Him**

**1 Peter 3:18 Christ suffered for sin... the just for the unjust**

**John 8:56 Abraham rejoiced to see My day and he saw it Right there!**

**THE QUESTION: Where is the Lamb Gen 22:7**

**THE ANSWER: God will provide Gen 22:8 Behold the Lamb John 1:29**

**THE RESPONSE: Worthy is the Lamb Rev 5:12**

**His Promise preceded our problem. Titus 1:2 God's promise of eternal life predates time!**

**His Remedy preceded our ruin. Rev 13:8 The Lamb slain from the creation of the world!**

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**THE THIRD PICTURE OF HIS SALVATION PLAN LIFE SAVING LAMB**

**ISRAEL'S LAMB IN EGYPT LIFE SAVING LAMB sets me free**

**The Promise Exodus 12:13 I will pass over**

**The Picture 12:1-2 The slain lamb**

Exodus 12:1-13

12:12 The **certainty** of judgment

12:13 The **necessity** of the sacrifice - my death, or the death of the substitute,  
everyone needed it, no exceptions

12:5 The **perfection** of the sacrifice - without blemish 1 Peter 1:18-19

12:13 The **evidence** of the sacrifice – blood on the doorposts and lintel

12:13 The **promise** in the sacrifice – “I will pass over... “

**The Promise in the sacrifice - satisfaction of justice**

“I will pass over”...because the judgment already fell on the lamb

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**THE FOURTH PICTURE OF HIS SALVATION PLAN THE SIN BEARING LAMB**

**CALVARY'S LAMB ON THE CROSS** *THE SIN BEARING LAMB* bears my sin

**The Promise** Isaiah 53:5 we are healed... Isaiah 53:11 He will justify many

**The Picture** the sin-bearing lamb dies for me Isaiah 53:1-6

Isa 53:6 Rejected, bearing our sins, taking our place

Promised Seed of the woman – virgin birth – Gen 3:15 Isa 7:14

Promised Place - Bethlehem – Micah 5:2

Promise Fulfilled - Luke 2:1-14

**Where** is He born in a stable the lamb

**Who** is told shepherds the lamb

**What** is the sign baby in a manger wrapped in linen symbol of death

**John 1:29 John the Baptist** Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**The perfect Lamb** he who knew no sin 2 Cor 5:21

**The sin bearing Lamb** became sin for us Galatians 3:13

**The justice satisfying lamb** Romans 6:23 Romans 3:19-26

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<b>ISAAC'S RAM ON MORIAH</b>	<b>SUBSTITUTIONARY RAM</b>	<b>takes my place</b>
<b>ISRAEL'S LAMB IN EGYPT</b>	<b>LIFE SAVING LAMB</b>	<b>sets me free</b>
<b>CALVARY'S LAMB ON THE CROSS</b>	<b>SIN BEARING LAMB</b>	<b>bears my sin</b>
<b>HEAVEN'S LAMB ON THE THRONE</b>	<b>SOVEREIGN LAMB</b>	<b>receives my worship forever</b>

The final stage of God's glorious plan    Creation, Sin, Promise, Redemption, Restoration

**Revelation 5:1-14    Behold the Lion.. I saw a Lamb!**

**He is the Lamb in Heaven restored to His rightful place    The glory restored    John 17**

no longer rejected but adored

no longer punished but praised

no longer blasphemed but blessed

no longer hated but hailed

no longer suffering but seated

no longer crushed, but crowned with glory

**This is the Lamb we worship.**

**This is the Son of God who became the Son of Man**

**to save the sons of men and make them the sons of God.**

**You cannot understand the manger without the cross,**

**the cross without the empty tomb,**

**or the empty tomb without the throne.**

**Behold the Lion... I saw the Lamb! That's our Savior! Glory to His name!**

**His Promise preceded our problem,    Titus 1:2**

**His Remedy preceded our ruin.    Rev 13:8**

**His plan determined it,**

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## Where is the Lamb?

Where is the lamb, young Isaac asked  
For wood and fire and knife I see  
No offering, no blood to shed  
No lamb to die in sinner's stead  
How shall before the Lord we come  
No lamb to offer, asked the son

My son, his aged father said,  
God will provide himself a lamb  
With heavy step and heavy heart  
Walked on the faithful patriarch  
Until the mountain came in view  
The place where sacrifice was due

Stone stacked on stone, an altar grew  
To claim the life of Abram's jewel  
How could God claim that life and still  
In mystery His word fulfill  
Yet Abraham was fully sure  
That promises once made endure  
In Isaac is your seed secure

The aged hand took up the knife  
Obedience would take the life  
But angel voice that hand would stay  
"Touch not the lad" another way  
Jehovah Jireh will provide  
Another in his place to die

Behold the Christmas Infant lay  
Upon a manger, in the hay  
This sinless child would grow to be  
That sacrifice for you and me  
To bear our sins, die in our place  
Provide the gift of saving grace

Seed of the woman, Holy Son  
From Abram, Isaac, Judah come  
Eternal One from heaven's throne  
To earth has come by virgin's womb  
Behold the Lamb in manger laid  
The Son of God in flesh arrayed

Burnt offerings and sacrifice  
Could never pay sin's awful price  
T'was Christ alone could take our place  
And with His blood our sins erase  
Behold the Lamb upon the tree  
That sacrifice for you and me

And all the pow'r of death and hell  
Were powerless to stop the swell  
Of resurrection power come  
To raise the sinless, Holy One  
He lives! Let every knee bow down  
And tongue confess He wears the crown

O Lord of lords, O King of kings  
Our sacrifice, our offering  
We call You Lord, we call You Lamb  
O Son of God, The Great I AM  
We live to sing Your ceaseless praise  
For endless, everlasting days

The Lamb who in a manger lay  
The Lamb who died for sins to pay  
The Lamb who rose to take the throne  
The Lamb who reigns to save His own  
The Lamb who comes is Lord of all  
The Lamb before whom all will bow

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