

Jesus, the lamb of God

“Behold ! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29 NKJV)

1.

I was thinking of what Paul wrote to Timothy... about rightly dividing the Word ... and it's true isn't it ? The whole story of redemption is there in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation..., “of the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world”. The firstborn sacrificial lamb, symbolising The Lord Jesus. And when scripture is laid open to reveal Him, it can make your heart sing sometimes, can't it?

Like that couple on the road to Emmaus, (in Luke 24:13 NKJV) *“Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem...”*

Whether they were friends, or a couple, it doesn't say but they were so low and broken after Jesus had been crucified, all their hopes shattered, unaware that the stranger who had joined them as they walked was in fact the resurrected Lord... and without saying who He was, He began to open up the scriptures to them concerning the Messiah, showing them that everything that had happened to Jesus was not only necessary... but the fulfilment of what was written there.

Then in the breaking of bread afterwards as they sat eating together, they suddenly realised who He was and he vanished from their sight...v32 and they said....,

“didn't our hearts burn within as He opened to us the scriptures?”

Hope and joy flooded into them and late as it was, they raced back to Jerusalem to tell Peter and the rest of them Another 7 miles !

This is in Luke 24:33-49 (NKJV)

v 33 *So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"*

v35 *And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.*

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

v40 *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb and He took it and ate in their presence.*

v44 *Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”*

v45 **And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

v46 *Then He said to them, "**Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,** v47 **and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** v48 *"And you are witnesses of these things.**

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

I think it's safe to assume that the couple remained in Jerusalem and were part of the 120 gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost when The Holy Spirit fell.

2.

And this is it..., The Lord has a way of finding us wherever we are and turning our lives around, even when everything we'd been trusting in seems to have gone pear shaped....and He opened the scriptures to them, of things concerning himself as The Messiah and as Saviour. That's what does it, a deeper revelation of Him.

In both instances...., the couple... and then again altogether with the disciples later., He wanted them to see Him in the scriptures and so believe on Him.

He opened their understanding to all the scriptures concerning Himself, so that they had confirmation in the scripture ... and now they knew for sure and believed that He was the promised Messiah ... and that all the sacrifices from Abel to that time had merely pointed to His death as the true lamb of God.... the perfect sacrifice which had been offered and accepted...., validated by His resurrection from the dead.

It's hard to imagine the heart rending emotions they'd all been through! From the lowest depths of grief and heartbreak and now overwhelming joy. The amazement and relief they must have felt as The Lord Himself was there with them..., opening up the scriptures and allowing them to make sense of all the horror of the last few days...., to see that it wasn't a tragedy after all but fulfilment of prophecy.

All the prophecies and the promises... even the covenant made to Abraham, that in His seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed and here was The Lord Himself telling them these things.

Something akin to when Joseph in Egypt revealed himself to his brothers, who thought He was long since dead, saying, " look all these things had to happen in order that many lives should be saved". (*Genesis 45:5-8*)

You can picture them as they listened to Jesus speaking, studying the puncture wounds still visible in His hands and feet... and across his forehead, where the crown of thorns had pierced His skin.

v46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, v47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. v48 "And you are witnesses of these things.

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (*Luke 24:46-49 NKJV*)

From the very beginning, God had been showing man that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin and now here they are, having witnessed the one truly acceptable sacrifice that all the animal sacrifices down through the ages had merely pointed to the pure, spotless Lamb of God who had carried the sins of the world in His body on the cross.

"And you are witnesses of these things", he said to them..., witnesses of His death and now witnesses of His resurrection, as firstborn from the dead. Living proof that His blood, that was shed for us, had been accepted... and that sin... and death, the consequence of sin, was defeated. The outpouring of The Holy Spirit would be the seal upon His finished work.

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him". (*2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV*)

They were to preach forgiveness of sins in His Name, beginning at Jerusalem and then to all nations. The good news, that the offering has been made and been accepted.... , and that really is good news ! And all it takes, is for us to believe ... and in our heart to say, *"Yes, I believe Lord Jesus that you died for me"*.

In fact nothing delights our Father's heart more, than the sweet fragrance of Jesus the beloved...., His love and His obedience, even unto death on a cross..., where His sacrifice fully met all the righteous demands of God's Holiness concerning our sin.

It's so complete that nothing was missed or overlooked, every sin, every curse, was laid on Him and dealt with once and for all .

3.

Once their understanding was opened to see that He was the fulfilment of all the types and examples in scripture, of the unblemished firstborn lamb, which had been the acceptable sacrifice for sin and the freewill offering throughout scripture..., they would have understood immediately.

For example the words of Isaiah

“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. 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.

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. 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.

*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**”.*

(Isaiah 53:6-10 NKJV)

From the very beginning, with Abel's offering of a firstborn lamb that was accepted..., to the Patriarchs like Noah and Abraham, who built stone altars and made similar sacrifices to God.

The account of Abraham where he was told to offer his son Isaac... and how closely it mirrored The Father's love for His beloved Son Jesus ...and although that was just a test and Isaac was spared, Abraham's prophetic words at that time of..., *“God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering”* (Genesis 22:8)..., which came to pass on the same spot around 2,000 years later, when Jesus was crucified .

The very first Passover lamb in Egypt, whose blood this time was painted around the doorway, that declared a death had already taken place .

Then the sacrifices ordained by God in the tabernacle in the wilderness which then continued when the children were in the land and then later in the temple.

And Most notably.... every day at 9am and 3pm, a lamb would be offered on the altar..., it was the morning and evening sacrifice, throughout the entire existence of the tabernacle and temple period.

Which were the exact times that Jesus was crucified.., at 9am ... and then later died..., at 3pm.

"These are the sacrifices you are to offer regularly on the altar. Each day, offer two lambs that are a year old, one in the morning and the other in the evening". (Exodus 29:38-39 NLT)

Real events and real people but still only examples or types, temporary fixes until Jesus came.

Even his birth in a stable ..., it's where you would expect to find a new born lamb, isn't it ?

And of all people, it was to shepherd's that the angels were sent to announce this, shepherd's at Bethlehem.

Who better to witness the birth of God's lamb, than the ones who had been setting apart and rearing firstborn lambs for sacrifice, for centuries.

God's lamb had been born and would be set apart for one purpose only, to be our sacrifice.

His life hidden for the next 30 years until the day that John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to the crowd saying....., *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* (John 1:29 NKJV)

Echoing the prophecy of Abraham in Genesis 22:7-8 (KJV)

*“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am 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 a lamb for a burnt offering.....**”*

So now with their understanding opened, all these things would have fallen into place, it was all so clear... Christ crucified..., The perfect sacrifice, that all the rest had pointed to. Scripture says....

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”.
(1 John 4:10 NIV)

4.

And on that day when John the Baptist pointed Him out, he continued by saying,

"I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' (John 1:33 NKJV)

The reason I wanted to speak on Jesus as the sacrificial lamb of God, was to highlight the truth that the blood of Jesus is **THE** one thing, that has changed everything forever, opening up the floodgates of God's love and goodness, that for thousands of years had been held back and restrained because of sin. And the very first thing He does after calling us through the gospel message, is to cleanse our conscience from sin when we believe on Him and then He seals us with The Holy Spirit of promise. (*Ephesians 1:13*)

The blood of Jesus has so fully met every demand of God's Holiness that not one sin was missed.

Not a case of, "ok you're clean now but from here on you have to keep coming back to be cleansed".

It's so perfect and pleasing to God, that all our sins, past, present and future are washed away when we believe on Him who died and rose again for us.

And the gift of The Holy Spirit isn't given on a whim, it's a certain promise to "whosoever believes on Him".

And no exceptions....."that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

And it was this specifically, that was on my mind to share.... that the issue for the believer is no longer about sin, as the enemy would have us believe, it's about allowing the love and grace of God into our hearts .

Jesus said, "*I am come that you might have life and life more abundantly*".

For the unbeliever of course, the conscience needs to be washed clean but the sacrifice has been made and accepted needing just an 'amen' from the heart. Our consent to be saved.

"*Not in wisdom of words*", Paul said, "*lest the cross of Christ become of no effect*", (*1 Corinthians 1:17*) which in itself is quite a thought isn't it ? That one can try to appeal to someone's understanding through reason, and we've probably all done it.

When in fact the gospel is well able to save without any assistance from us, having real power to make us alive in our spirit, when we believe.

So it's all about the acceptable sacrifice..., The Gospel that declares God's lamb, The Lord Jesus, who has been offered and accepted on our behalf ... and all we have to do is say, "*Yes, I believe Jesus died for me*".

The Accuser, meanwhile, through deception, since he has no power over us..., tries to weigh us down with fear and anxiety, pointing out our faults and failures, so that we..., through a bad conscience, disqualify ourselves from the goodness of God. When in fact God doesn't disqualify us at all, His arms are open wide.

"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."
(*Romans 8:33-34 NKJV*)

Religion and our flesh, would have us occupied with self improvement, self analysis..., where we think we're falling short or could improve, you know how it is.... and that it's territory where our adversary operates. But if you remember in the previous study about growing up in Christ, we looked at that passage....

"and we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of God are being transfigured into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of The Lord." (*2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV*)

That's where we need to be looking, in God's mirror, which tells us of the finished work of God in Christ and of our place in him.... at the things that are real, things that are true. Believing what He says about us which is that we are greatly loved and that His finished work on the cross was perfect.

5.

We can carry things in our hearts sometimes for so long, that we've become used to it... and The Lord would have us free from every weight or care.... and this was what was on my mind specifically.

It may be regrets, worries...., whatever it is that troubles us... but He loves us so much and His finished work on the cross was so complete, that there is nothing that His blood hasn't dealt with..... and He would have us free from all these things.

Sure we make all kinds of mistakes but it was covered by The blood of Jesus once for all, it's His life that He wants us to have, learning to be led of the Spirit and to enjoy all the riches of His grace such as His Peace and Joy to be transfigured into the same image as we behold our Father's love for us in Christ.

And it's in "*speaking the truth in love*" that all the lies of the enemy are exposed and it's then, that all the anxiety and heaviness that accompanies those lies, are washed away.

Just like a wave that goes who-osh ... up the beach and back again, erasing all the footmarks and holes and the confusion that was there, leaving it smooth and clean..., brand new again.

The thing is this, our adversary's chief weapon is deception...., he has no power over us, he's been defeated and we're seated with Christ far above all principalities and powers and so it's with subtlety that he attempts to make our lives unfruitful, or ineffective, using thoughts that either produce guilt...., or lies that contradict what God says of us, which we don't always recognise straight out as being detrimental. So that it can feel like a prison cell ... but on closer inspection the door is wide open.

Because no sin was overlooked, He bore them all. Every failure and bad decision, things said or done, or not done was included there at the cross and His sacrifice went up to God like a sweet savour and will remain so for all eternity.

And when you look for instance at the Armour of God spoken of in Ephesians, all the parts are elements of the gospel when you think about it. (*Ephesians. 6: 11-18*)

Loins girded about with truth...., for a Helmet, the hope of salvation..., our Breastplate, the righteousness of God, that's gifted to us through having believed on Jesus..., our Shield, faith that trusts in his blood alone..., our Feet shod with the preparation(*the finished work of Christ*) of the gospel of peace....and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God..... .

So it's either that we're ignorant of the truth..., which is normal, when we first come to The Lord.

Or we've forgotten ..., or if we're honest with ourselves, it's generally that in our heart we don't fully believe all that God says about us. We want to..., in fact with our minds we do ... but in our heart of hearts we need The Lord to quicken us with His word.

In every case, the answer is the Word of Truth, the gospel..., by hearing and hearing, in that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God...., to allow that word into our heart.

It's the one needful thing. That's how Jesus described our need of spending time to listen, when he defended Mary's choice of sitting at His feet to hear His words.

He draws us near and it's through His Word that He does it. Always through a deeper revelation of Himself and His finished work..., through scripture.

So the encouragement is to look to Him and realise that our identity is so wrapped up in Christ now, He's our life.... He's everything to us.... and all that He has, He's given to us. To see the love of our Father in all of this as we feast and focus on The Lord Jesus and all He's done for us.... because transfiguration takes place as we do.

If you recall, the two scriptures that speak of us being transformed, both relate to The Word of Truth, the Gospel.... 2 Corinthians 3:18 "*beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory*"..., (Paul having explained that the mirror is the gospel that he preached)

And Romans 12:2 "*don't be conformed to the world but be transformed, by the renewing of your mind.*"

6.

So the very first thing he does is deal with our guilty conscience, because forgiveness of sin is the basis on which all the blessing of God is released into our lives.... and look what happened to those of Cornelius's household when they heard Peter preach the good news that all their sins were forgiven because of Jesus, the moment they heard and believed, they were all filled with The Holy Spirit. It's in Acts 10:43-45

"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also". (Acts 10:43-45 NKJV)

When we first started attending the church, I remember hearing of forgiveness of sin and thinking "yes I believe, although I haven't done anything especially bad ". I didn't realise at the time, that our old nature inherited from Adam, is a chip off the old block so to speak.... fundamentally flawed and sinful through and through....and given the right set of circumstances, just what our old nature is capable of.

Cain and Abel for example...., knowing how things turned out, one tends to think of Cain as a nasty piece of work ... but up until the incident with the offerings, I wonder if on the surface he was normal, (for want of a better word)....and that the bloody, messy sacrifice of a firstborn lamb that Abel offered...and remember it says *"and the fat thereof"*, (so it had to be killed and prepared by the offerer)...., was something abhorrent to Cain., it's a thought isn't it ? Having to kill and butcher an innocent lamb .

If that was true.... and that he knew what was required but chose not to(and I'm only surmising)...., what a terrible thing, that anger, jealousy and pride, which is in all of us, burned with such intensity, that he ended up murdering his own brother, having initially declined to kill a lamb !

Now that may not be so far off the mark because there was another lamb at the entrance.... which begs the question, why... and were they both aware that a firstborn lamb was what the Lord required ? Cain obviously chose not to for some reason..., instead, bringing produce from the ground that he'd grown and he must have been very confident that it was something special, judging by his extreme reaction to God's rejection. It may be that he just didn't believe it was necessary.

But when you think about it, the preaching of the gospel, is a similar picture..., in that Paul said that the word of Jesus, dying on the cross for our sins, is foolishness to unbelievers (*1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJV*) and I suspect that Cain fell into that category and that to kill and offer a lamb made no sense.

On the other hand, the fact that Abel offered a firstborn lamb **by faith**, suggests that he knew, or perceived beforehand, that this was what God required, on the basis that faith comes by hearing and hearing by The Word of God. I doubt that he actually understood the significance but nevertheless he was obedient... and God bore witness that His offering was not only accepted ... but that as a consequence of having believed and offered the right offering, in His sight Abel was righteous.

In fact let's have a quick look at what actually happened there....

*"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which **he obtained witness that he was righteous**. God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks". (Hebrews 11:4 NKJV)*

Again it's a similar scenario..., we hear the gospel and either take God at His Word and believe, or think it's foolishness and just do what we think is right.

However, if we believe that Jesus died for us, the perfect sacrifice of God's Lamb,..., we're then sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, God's witness to us that we are Righteous in His sight.

The lamb having borne all our sin.

7.

Only God understood the full consequence of Adam's sin and the remedy..., "*the lamb slain from the foundation of the world*". It says in, (*Revelation 13:8*)

And that it affected the whole of mankind and would be forever, unless He intervened.

So obviously He was introducing this concept here at the very beginning of a sinless substitute being acceptable as a sacrifice for sin, which would eventually be fulfilled in His Son The Lord Jesus, dying in our place for the sins of the whole world. A theme that's carried right through scripture.

When you think of the lamb that was set apart for sacrifice, one sees meekness and innocence ... but also with The Lord, it represents the very highest expression of love, in that He willingly laid down His life for us.

While we see the suffering and the wounded blood soaked body of Jesus, nailed to a cross... bearing all our sins and diseases, having been made a curse for us....., the love and obedience of His beloved Son, went up to God like a sweet smell and His blood redeemed us all.

The scripture, "*without the shedding of blood...*" which is in the letter to the Hebrews, points out that according to the law, almost all things are purified with blood and that without the shedding of blood there is no remission, no pardon and how all those animal sacrifices were just temporary fixes, depicting what needed to happen in heaven and that it would take the sinless blood of a greater sacrifice than these to deal with sin once and for all ... and then goes on to show that the Blood of Jesus has accomplished this.

Hebrews 9:22-23. NKJV.

"....without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these."

Hebrews 9:14, NKJV

"... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

So Abel received God's seal of approval in some way, perhaps God's fire consumed the sacrifice ... ? And Cain...?.... Nothing ! Yet his fruit and veg was probably set out like a stall holders barrow, piled up with the best and biggest..., looking colourful and attractive, who wouldn't be impressed ?

Being the firstborn Son..., his gift rejected by God and his brother so blessed.., the mix of extreme anger and jealousy within was so fierce, that he completely ignored God's promise of acceptance even now..., which was to offer the lamb that was laying down at the entrance as a sin offering (*chattah-at*).

You know, if he'd only taken it on the chin and done that, he could still have been accepted ! The lamb and the shedding of blood would have worked.

Incidentally, if you have a look sometime in Leviticus 3: 6-11, you'll find that Abel's offering is so similar to the peace offering (*shelem*) mentioned there,(an ox, sheep or goat)

And then in the next chapter Leviticus 4:32-35, you find that the sin offering (*chattah-at*),(ox, sheep or goat), is identical to God's words to Cain regarding the innocent lamb lying at the entrance.... which was probably in a stall or tied up. So it's the same theme ...and yet this was around 2,500 years later, in Moses' time.

"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, (and he obviously didn't !)
sin (chattah-at) lieth at the door and unto thee shall be his desire and thou shalt rule over him".(Genesis 4:7 KJV)

(*'chattah-at'* is a word that's used for both Sin and Sin offering). *Jesus,[our sin offering]was made sin for us, do you see?*
(*'petach'* ,is a common word and generally translated as entrance or door, so clearly a structure or tent of some kind).

And it was almost certainly a meek, docile lamb at the entrance, since the word "lieth" at the entrance or door, is the Hebrew word '*rabats*' which is what cows and sheep do when you see them laid down in a field.

8.

There are other words for laying down when used for humans but 'rabats' is the one generally used for animals.

It's also the one used in Psalm 23 " *he makes me to lie down in green pastures*" where David is using an image of a sheep being lovingly cared for by the shepherd .

With 'chattah-at' meaning both Sin and Sin offering..., in the light of what happened next, it's unsurprising that lots of translations present this passage as though it's Sin as a power or spiritual principle, that is crouching at the entrance (but to what ?).... and wanting to pounce on the one who does wrong.

One can understand the thinking ... but Sin and the sinful nature was already in man, hence our need of a Saviour and this is the issue here that's lost, depending on the way one translates this.

Anyway, have a look at Young's literal translation of the Hebrew text which in my opinion is spot on.....

"And it cometh to pass at the end of days that Cain bringeth from the fruit of the ground a present to Jehovah and Abel, he hath brought, he also, from the female firstlings of his flock, even from their fat ones; and Jehovah looketh unto Abel and unto his present.... and unto Cain and unto his present He hath not looked..... and it is very displeasing to Cain, and his countenance is fallen.

And Jehovah saith unto Cain, 'Why hast thou displeasure? and why hath thy countenance fallen? Is there not, if thou dost well, acceptance? and if thou dost not well, at the opening a sin-offering is crouching, and unto thee its desire, and thou rulest over it.' (Genesis 4:3-7)

The best test of anything though, surely, must be to place it alongside the blueprint of God's plan of salvation, which is so clear throughout the bible from start to finish, types and pictures of Jesus The Lamb of God, who took away the sin of the world.

In the book of Revelation, in the very last chapter of the bible, with everything finished, it says this ... " *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb*". (Revelation, 22:1 NKJV).

In the midst of the throne of God, we see The Lamb..., The Lord Jesus.

The meekness and innocence of a lamb depicting the very nature of our Lord Jesus ... but even more than that, as mentioned earlier, the lamb speaks of the sacrificial quality of God's love and that of The Lord Jesus, that there is no greater love than this.

Because if there's one thing that the finished work of Jesus on the cross tells us, its that we are totally indebted to the love and grace of God for everything ... sacrificial love that holds nothing back.

God The Father, whose great love moved Him to give His beloved Son And the obedience of Jesus, who then in love, willingly laid down His life as our Saviour.

With a name depicting one's nature, His very name of Jesus, 'Yeshuah' in Hebrew, means salvation, deliverer. It's the Name above all names..., encompassing I believe even all the names of God, by which he had revealed himself up until the Lord Jesus came..., like a prism that reveals the whole spectrum of colour that light is comprised of.

He is the express image of God, scripture tells us....., revealing the very heart of our Father. (Hebrews 1:3)

In fact 'Yeshuah' is a contraction of the name 'Yehoshua' (Joshua), this is the root word of the name of Jesus and literally means, Jehovah is Salvation. **The Lord is Salvation.**

(a combination of two words.., the shortened form of Jehovah,'Yeh' and 'Yasha' meaning to save or deliver.)

So not like a pair of overalls that you put on to do a job, this is who He is,'Yehoshuah', 'Jehovah is Salvation' and this is the name above all names. The Lamb, signifying the self sacrificial love at the heart of God.

9.

Even the law for example, until Jesus came and fulfilled it..., had been added specifically to show up man's sinful nature. Showing man's total inability to keep or meet God's standards ... and yet within that life and death scenario of blessings and cursings, the mercy and grace of God is revealed in His acceptance of substitutional animal sacrifices for man's sin and the sprinkling of blood upon the mercy seat annually for the whole nation.

All the sacrifices typifying The Lord Jesus and pointing towards the time when The Lord Jesus would come as the true Lamb of God and deal with sin once and for all.

But do you see the Saviour quality even there, in that His love and grace is always at the heart of things ?

Which is why the enemy's number one strategy is to have us look to ourselves, at our perceived strengths and weaknesses..., when the Lord says,..... "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God and there is no other. Look to me and be saved." (Isaiah 45:22 NKJV) (He says it twice to emphasise it !)

God was in Christ, it says, reconciling the world to himself...*"not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us.....: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* (2 Corinthians 5:19-21 NKJV)

There it is do you see, ... the innocent lamb.

It's all about the sacrifice...., the blood of Jesus shed for us....and taking God at His word, which says..., *"believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved"*..., the acceptable sacrifice. (Acts 16:31)

Or..., on our natural reasoning, which says, *"I don't see why I have to believe that Jesus died for my sins, I'm a good person "*.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJV)

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NKJV).

So it's done, the sacrifice has been made and been accepted. Every sin, every curse dealt with, once and for all. So whatever the need..., anxious or troubled thoughts..., to just trust in the Blood of Jesus, knowing that everything has been dealt with and paid for.... don't accept the enemies lies.... because we're greatly loved and there's real power in that Word to save, in every area of our lives, the big things and the little things.

"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." (Romans 8:33-34 NKJV)

And I think that's a good place to finish.

Thank you Father for your great love and all your goodness...and for this so great salvation.... and for our place in Christ .