

## A The Lamb of God:

### ❖ Prepared.

- Jesus is introduced as sacrificed or slain “from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). This doesn’t mean that Jesus died when the world was created. As Peter explained, Jesus was “foreordained” to offer Himself as a sacrifice in case humans sinned (1 Peter 1:20).
- The lamb in the Passover was separated on the 10<sup>th</sup> day to be sacrificed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day. Jesus was prepared since the beginning for the moment of His sacrifice.
- Thanks to that preparation, God could show how salvation was going to work through the sacrifice system. This way people could find hope and salvation even before Jesus was sacrificed at the cross.

### ❖ Announced.

- Jesus announced His death at the cross for the first time during His private conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:14-15).
- During His last year of ministry, He told His disciples three times that He had to die: Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 18:31-34.
- Jesus’ death went against their idea of a triumphant Messiah. They couldn’t understand what Jesus was announcing, that He had to die to save humankind.

### ❖ Sacrificed.

- Jesus voluntarily endured humiliation and anguish in His way to the cross (Philippians 2:8).
- Satan moved those people to crucify the Savior, and to encourage Him to come down the cross and save Himself (Matthew 27:42).
- Could have Jesus come down the cross and save Himself? Yes, but He knew that saving Himself would condemn all humankind. He chose to die to save even those who were unknowingly asking not to be saved.
- Jesus Himself announced that evil and sin had been overcome: “It is finished.”

## B The meaning of His sacrifice:

### ❖ He died for me.

- None of the millions of sacrificed animals since the fall of Adam and Eve until Nisan 14, 27 AD could take away our sin (Hebrews 10:1-4).
- The death of Jesus was unique and unrepeatable. It can forgive any sin committed both before it and after it (Hebrews 9:24-28).
- It’s enough to forgive my sin (Acts 10:43).

### ❖ The power of the cross.

- What is the power of the cross?
  - (1) It’s the ultimate revelation of God’s justice against sin (Romans 3:21-26)
  - (2) It’s the ultimate revelation of God’s love for sinners (Romans 5:8)
  - (3) It’s the ultimate source of power to break the chains of sin (Romans 6:22-23)
  - (4) It’s our only hope of eternal life (1 John 5:11-12)
  - (5) It’s the only antidote for a future rebellion in the Universe (Revelation 7:13-17)