

LESSON 13  
**The Lamb of God**  
John 1:19-51

**BEFORE WE BEGIN**, our Lord has many names. Among them are Jesus (Jehovah-salvation), Christ, or Messiah (the anointed One), the Servant of Jehovah, and the Son of God. In this lesson John the Baptist addressed Him with another beautiful name.

Read John 1:19-28

**LESSON OUTLINE**

A. The Delegation of Officials

1. Very soon after Jesus' temptation in the desert, an official delegation of priests and Levites came to John the Baptist. They were members of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body in Jerusalem. The name Sanhedrin is not in the Bible. On your worksheet you will be asked to find more information about this body of rulers.

a. These men came to John the Baptist at Bethabara. To refresh your memory, look again at Bethabara on your map for Lessons 7-9.

b. The occasion for the concern of these unbelieving Jews must have been the wonder of Jesus' baptism, with the Holy Spirit descending as a dove, and God speaking from heaven to His Son. Remember: evil men are terrified by God's heavenly wonders.

There was unrest among the rulers.

2. Although the words of the priests and Levites to John the Baptist were, "Who art thou?" it is clear from John's answer, "I am not the Christ," that they meant, "Are you the Christ?"

3. John's answer did not satisfy them. He was someone important. So they asked, "Who then? Elijah?" Although John the Baptist was the antitype\* of Elijah, he gave the priests and Levites a shorter answer this time: "I am not."

4. The men persisted: "Art thou that Prophet?" They referred to Deuteronomy 18:15. Read it. That prophecy refers to Jesus, but the wicked scholars taught that a special prophet would arise before Jesus came. John gave them a curt "no" for an answer.

5. At last the delegation came to the right question: "Who are you?"

a. John the Baptist answered: "A voice," a herald, a preparer.

- b. The rulers asked, "Why do you baptize then?"
- c. John explained: "I baptize with water. It is only a *sign* of the baptism with which the Coming One will baptize. He baptizes with the power of the Holy Spirit, verse 33.

6. John saw and recognized Jesus standing in his audience, and he must have startled them with the words of verses 26 and 27. John the Baptist knew his calling: to point to Jesus and then to leave the field of work to Him. John's period of work was very short — only one and a half years.

**Read verses 29-34**

**B. John Points to Jesus**

1. The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him. He proved, by the name he called Him, that he understood the purpose of Jesus' coming to earth. He said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" No other name would have been appropriate at that moment.
  - a. Jesus was the Lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of His people.
  - b. He was the fulfillment of the promises of the sacrifices which pointed to Him.
  - c. John the Baptist also understood another wonder when he uttered those words: that the Lamb would sacrifice Himself not only for the sins of the nation of Israel, but for the sins of His people throughout the whole world. See verse 29.
2. John was sure that Jesus was the Savior because God had given him the sign of verse 33. He was sure that Jesus was the Son of God, verse 34.

**Discuss in class how only the Son of God can be the Lamb of God.**

**Read verses 35-42**

**C. Jesus Calls Three Disciples**

1. On the third day John the Baptist introduced Jesus with the same words: "Behold the Lamb of God." This time he said it to John, the son of Zebedee (who never mentions his name in his gospel narrative), and to Andrew.
  - a. It was John the Baptist's intention that these men follow Jesus.
  - b. The two men must have had their souls filled with questions about this Lamb of God.

- c. Jesus' question in verse 38: "*What seek ye?*" instead of "*Whom seek ye?*" shows that He knew their bewilderment. He knew they wanted Him to explain His work on this earth.
  - d. The answer of John and Andrew seems unexpected: "Where do you live?" But it is not: for the only way to know about this Lamb of God was to go home and talk with Him.
2. They stayed the whole day, from 3 o'clock on. The Bible narrative does not give a description of the visit but shows from the reactions of John and Andrew that they knew who Jesus was.
    - a. Andrew found his brother Simon, and said, "We have found the Messiah."
    - b. When Jesus met Simon, He gave him another name: Cephas, or Peter, which means *a stone*, or *a rock*; for later Simon Peter would make a confession upon which the whole church was built. See Matthew 16:16-18.

**Read verses 43-51**

- D. Jesus Calls Two More Disciples
  1. On the fourth day, Jesus found Philip, whose home, along with that of Peter and Andrew, was in Bethsaida. You will find it on your worksheet and on the map for Lessons 7-9.
  2. Philip looked for Nathanael, and found him.
    - a. He told Nathanael the good news that he had found the One about whom the prophets in the Old Testament had written.
    - b. Anyone who knew the Scriptures knew that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem, according to prophecy.
    - c. However, Philip identified Jesus according to His earthly father and the town of Nazareth, in which He now lived.
  3. Nathanael, whose name means "God-given," quoted the proverb in verse 46. But Philip believed in the Messiah. He persisted.
  4. Jesus came and showed Nathanael what was in his heart.
    - a. That he was a true Israelite, a man without an evil mind and heart, who was humble and sorry for his sins.
    - b. Nathanael responded with the words of a true Israelite: "Thou art the Son of God."

**DO NOT FORGET** that when Jesus spoke the words of verse 51, He was telling Nathanael and all God's people that He was the fulfillment of the ladder in Jacob's dream. The Son of God had come to bring God and man together, by taking away the sin and guilt that separated them.

#### **WORD STUDIES**

antitype — the reality which the type represents.

On the sheet of *The Disciples of Jesus* in the back of your workbook, print the name of the first five disciples.

## Exercises for Lessons 13-15

From Lesson 13

1. In a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, look up the word *Sanhedrin*, and in complete sentences write a short description of this ruling body. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Also look up the word *synagogue* and describe it. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. In A, 5, a of this lesson you learned that John the Baptist called himself "a voice," or a herald. Soon his work as herald would be finished. From John 3:28 and 30, prove that he knew it. \_\_\_\_\_  
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