

## ***Behold the Lamb 11***

Because Jesus threatened the religious system of his day, he *became* the scapegoat who had to pay the price exacted by its leaders. It wasn't because **God** had been offended by sin, and required a "payback" that his only Son alone could satisfy. God is much bigger than that understanding of "justice." Jesus didn't have to die to satisfy any anger on God's part. Rather, it was the powers of the world both civil and religious he offended and threatened who said he must die. But even in the face of such human violence and wrongdoing, God continued his open handed and open hearted graciousness and generosity, still extending to us the very best he had to offer, no matter what. This is where the image of the Lamb of God enters the picture. There are several references to sacrificial lambs in the Old Testament behind St. John's reference to Jesus as the Lamb of God in the gospel. Scripture scholars say *each of those Old Testament references say something important about Jesus' death, not as God's sacrifice of Jesus, but as Jesus' own use of our 'scapegoat mentality' as a way to show that it's not God's mentality.*

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.

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