

Revelation's GPS

In Revelation 13:8, the Bible tells us that the Lamb (referring to Jesus) was slain since the foundation of the world. How has Jesus been slain since the foundation of the world? Didn't Jesus die just around 2,000 years ago, but not since the beginning of this earth? We find some clues in the story of the Garden of Eden. God created man and woman in His image, but they decided to follow someone else. Thus, a separation resulted — Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden of Eden; they lost that face-to-face relationship with God! But God gave them a promise that brought them hope in the midst of their distress. In this promise, God revealed His love for them and for us! The Eden story tells us that this promise of a Savior — a promise that would guarantee no separation ever again — existed as soon as sin came into the picture:

1. What were Adam and Eve promised and how was it fulfilled?

Answer:

a. Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall _____ your head, And you shall _____ His heel.

b. John 19:17

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a _____, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

c. Luke 23:33

And when they were come to the place, which is called _____ there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

d. NOTE: *Though Adam and Eve and all of us deserve death, God expressed His love as being stronger than death, for He took our sins and died on the cross for our sins!*

2. Where is the first time we see the word “Lamb” in the Bible?

Answer:

a. Look up and read Genesis 22:7-8 — “Where is the Lamb?”

i. The first time we see this word “lamb” in the Bible, is in the form of a question — “where is the lamb?” This was the question that the Israelites sought an answer for in the Old Testament. The lamb pointed to their coming Savior and they ever looked for Him. Where is the first time we see the word “lamb” mentioned in the New Testament? We find it in the form of an answer to the great question: “Where is the lamb?”

b. John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God,
which taketh away the _____ of the world.

i. The way God's people were going to find the lamb and its meaning was in the understanding of the sanctuary message!

3. Since we walked away from Jesus, how do we find our way back to Him?

Answer:

a. Psalms 77:13

Your way, O God, is in the _____ ...

- i. *In Genesis 3:24 we see that Adam and Eve were expelled toward the east. At the east side of the garden was an angel guarding the entrance. Looking back upon the expelling of our parents from the garden, we see that God couldn't bare being separated from them too long, so He instituted a GPS on how to get back to Him.*
- ii. *The Bible says that the way of getting back to Jesus (who is the way- John 14:6) is through the sanctuary. The sanctuary was established so that God could dwell again with His people! The sanctuary was to be located in the center of all the tribes of Israel, thus indicating that God wanted (and still wants) to be the center of their lives! So let's go through the sanctuary and see how it led the children of Israel back to Jesus and how it can lead us closer to Jesus as well.*

4. What are the articles that make up the sanctuary?

Answer:

a. Courtyard:

- i. Altar of sacrifice —Exodus 35:16
- ii. Laver —Exodus 30:18

b. Holy Place:

- i. Table of shewbread —Exodus 25:30
- ii. Altar of incense —Exodus 30:1,8
- iii. Seven golden candlesticks —Exodus 25:31

c. Most Holy Place:

- i. Ark of the covenant —Hebrews 9:3-5

5. So how does the sanctuary lead me back to God?

Answer:

a. Courtyard and my life:

- i. Hebrews 9:26 —Alter of sacrifice

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of _____ .

- ii. NOTE: *The first step in getting back into a relationship with God is accepting Christ's death on the cross for my sins, yes —accepting Christ as my Savior!*
- iii. Hebrews 10:22 —Laver

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts
_____ from an evil conscience, and our bodies _____ with pure water.

b. The Holy Place and my life:

- i. John 6:35 —Shewbread

And Jesus said unto them, I am the _____ of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

- ii. NOTE: *The Bible was inspired by God who is divine but is expressed in human words (combination of humanity and divinity) so that we being human can experience the divine! So then the Table of Shewbread represents my need to study the Bible in order to get closer to God!*

iii. Psalm 141:2 —Altar of incense

Let my _____ be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

iv. Matthew 5:14-16 —Golden candlestick

Ye are the _____ of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your _____ so shine before _____ that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

c. The Most Holy Place and my life:

i. I John 3:3

And every man that hath this hope in him _____ himself, even as he is pure.
The ability to be in the presence of God doesn't just happen all of a sudden. There is a heart preparation that needs to take place. One needs to go through the experience of the sanctuary to find the way back into the presence of God. Our job is to become clean by washing in the blood of the Lamb!

ii. Hebrews 9:22

...Without shedding of _____, there is no remission.
In order for something/someone to be cleansed, the object or person needed something to clean them. In the Bible, the blood of the sacrifice pointed forward to the sacrifice Jesus was going to give on the cross.

Review:

1. **Since we have repeated the same mistake as our first parents in Eden and walked away from Jesus, how can we find our way back to Him?**
Through the sanctuary (Psalms 77:13).
2. **How do I find my way back to God through the courtyard?**
The courtyard experience teaches me that by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for me (Hebrews 9:26) and by publicly displaying my love for Him through baptism (Hebrews 10:22), I take my first steps back to God.
3. **How do I find my way back to God through the Holy Place?**
The Holy Place teaches me that I can find my way back to God through daily Bible study (John 6:35), prayer (Psalm 141:2), and the sharing of my faith with others (Matthew 5:14-16).
4. **How do I find my way back to God through the Most Holy Place?**
The Most Holy Place helps me to recognize my need of heart preparation and heart searching —my need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb (I John 3:3, Hebrews 9:22).

Response:

Have you entered into your own experience with Jesus yet? Where are you in your walk with God? Today, ask yourself if you have surrendered completely to Him! Are you serving Jesus with all your heart because of the complete sacrifice and service Jesus has given to you?

Answer: _____