



# The Good News

September 13th, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 30

## *His Sacrifice*

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**John 3:16:** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

The Old Testament, according to some, is a good story, a look into the past to see how things were before Jesus came, something to be read because of the lessons we can learn from the mistakes made by the Jews, because of the faith shown by the people spotlighted in the various books and accounts, etc. However, it is not just a collection of books/stories/scrolls included with the New Testament for good measure: it is the recounting and the documentation of God’s character, His power, and how He foretold of the promise to be fulfilled in His Son. The Old Testament doesn’t just precede the New Testament, it *validates* it by helping to illustrate the groundwork and foundation God laid in preparation for His greatest gift to mankind: sending Jesus to be a teacher, a leader, a high priest, a perfect sacrifice for all of us and to literally rip apart the veil that separated man from God.

Jesus’ life was short by our standards, but like everything else, its value is measured in quality, not quantity. What He taught and accomplished enables mankind to recognize Him as the Son of God. He has enabled us to understand the nature of the completion of the Old Law and the establishment of the New Law. He has enabled us to have access to God in a way which had not been possible since Adam and Eve. His life culminated in the single most important event in human history.

We know of what Jesus went through during the last days prior to His crucifixion, but do we fully understand and appreciate it? Repetition can sometimes dull the edge of even the most extreme effects upon the mind. Reading and studying something as visceral as Christ’s sacrifice and the brutality He was forced to suffer is an example of this. As a result, it can sometimes be glossed over when we go through the process of remembering the event. However, imagine what it must have been like for Him...how much anxiety must He have felt about what He was to endure that He prayed *three times* to God to “let this cup pass” from Him? He tells his disciples that He is grieved *to the point of death*...how long must it have weighed on His mind prior to that point? He was, after all, human and therefore felt and suffered just as we do. Yet He continued to teach in the synagogue, defy the chief priests’ and Pharisees’ attempts to entrap and undermine Him, all mere days before His death. Yet not once did He speak or act to spare Himself any of what would take place. He bore it silently, as **Isaiah 53:7** says *“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 yielded Himself to God’s Will, not His own. How often do we let ourselves remember the depth of such things and not simply a glossed-over version of how He was crucified? Let us truly remember, understand, and appreciate everything He did and went through for us in those last days.