

meaning underneath them. But thinking people wondered what it meant that God required a lamb for the sins of the world.

Then one day ^{John the Baptist} a young prophet went out to call the people of Israel to righteousness. He demanded that they forsake their evil ways, that they fit themselves for the kingdom of God. He cried "The Kingdom of God is at hand". Now he baptized people as a sign ^{of} ~~for~~ their determination to live better lives. One day he saw a young man coming toward him. Pointing at this man he said "Behold the Lamb of God". Thus we find Jesus introduced to the world as the Lamb of God. ^{an} The one sent by God as the real counterpart of the typical lamb that had been offered through the ages.

We hear a great deal in these days about Jesus as the wonderful teacher, about Him as a prophet of righteousness, about Him as a thinker of great thoughts. All these are true and important sides of His nature. But the most important fact about Him, that by which He was introduced on His first public appearance, was this "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

For three years after this Jesus went up and down through the land of Israel, preaching and doing good. He declared many great truths about God and His dealings with man. He called a selected group of disciples and taught them. But the most important purpose of these three years was to show before the world that He was really worthy to play