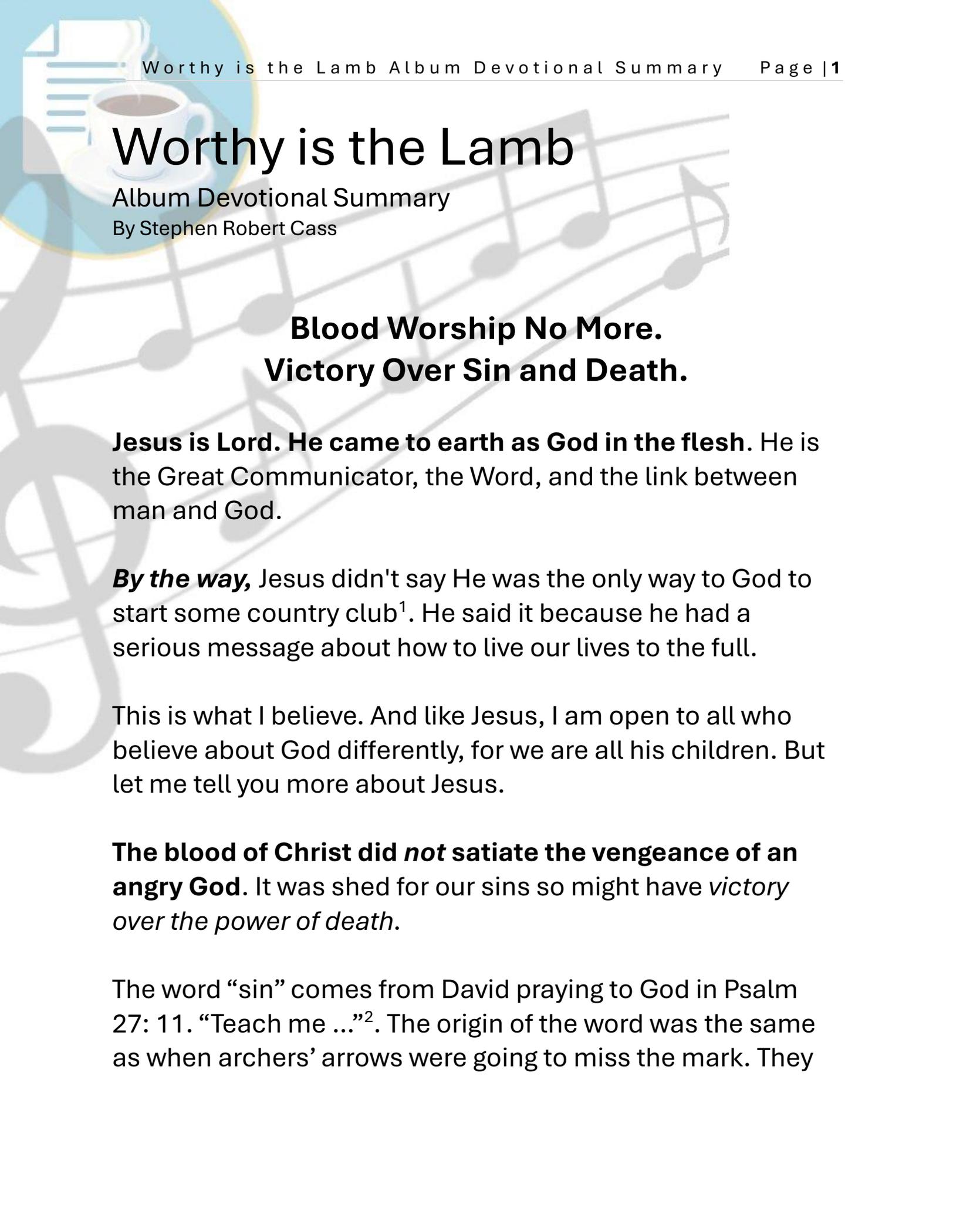




Worthy is the Lamb

Album Devotional Summary

By Stephen Robert Cass



Blood Worship No More. Victory Over Sin and Death.

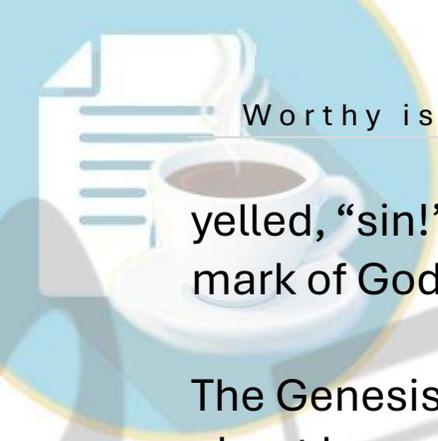
Jesus is Lord. He came to earth as God in the flesh. He is the Great Communicator, the Word, and the link between man and God.

By the way, Jesus didn't say He was the only way to God to start some country club¹. He said it because he had a serious message about how to live our lives to the full.

This is what I believe. And like Jesus, I am open to all who believe about God differently, for we are all his children. But let me tell you more about Jesus.

The blood of Christ did *not* satiate the vengeance of an angry God. It was shed for our sins so might have *victory over the power of death.*

The word “sin” comes from David praying to God in Psalm 27: 11. “Teach me ...”². The origin of the word was the same as when archers’ arrows were going to miss the mark. They



yelled, “sin!” Sin describes how we can continually miss the mark of God’s design for our lives.

The Genesis story of Adam and Eve was possibly allegorical about how sin came into the world but still leads to an indisputable truth: God is pure love, we are not³.

Yet we are created in the image of God. But we are so easily led astray with the "me, me, me" so intrinsically sewn. The need to control. **Some poisoned "apple" awakened our ID.**

Summary:

- **Jesus is Lord. He came to earth as God in the flesh.**
- **He did not come to earth to start a country club, but with a serious message about living life to the full.**
- **The concept of “sin” is to miss the mark of God’s design.**
- **The blood of Christ wasn't substituted for the vengeance of an angry God.** It was to have victory over sin and death.
- **Some poisoned "apple" awakened our ID.**

The literal death and resurrection of Jesus was God's way to offer us the fullness of life:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I

do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let

your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27



What is this peace, this *shalom*, that Jesus speaks of?

IT IS A STATE OF COMPLETENESS, WHOLENESS, HEALTH, PEACE OF MIND AND HEART, WELFARE, TRANQUILITY, PROSPERITY, PERFECTNESS, FULLNESS, REST, HARMONY, AND THE ABSENCE OF AGITATION OR DISCORD⁴.

*Christ's blood was shed for **you** and **me** to **stop trying to find peace** as the world defines it. Instead, find peace as Jesus describes so we can **start making the mark for God's intention for our lives**. The justification "to please an angry God" is a deflection from the invitation.*

And how was the world trying to find peace at the time? The Jews via rituals. The Romans via conquest. The Greeks through substitutionary deities to explain life. All people try to find the meaning of life through their own understanding and through money, power, and the control of resources.

*The world can't offer you life to the full. How are **you** trying to find peace today?*

Summary:

- **God offers us true Shalom through his death as a substitute for us looking for peace as the world offers it. Instead, He wants us to start "making the mark" with His intentions for our lives.**

So What? God offers me Shalom. Why should I care? What's in it for me??

What's in it for you is so you can *claim victory over the power of sin and death!*

Continue to recognize the blood shed by Jesus and the sacrifice made for *shalom* so you can live life to the full.

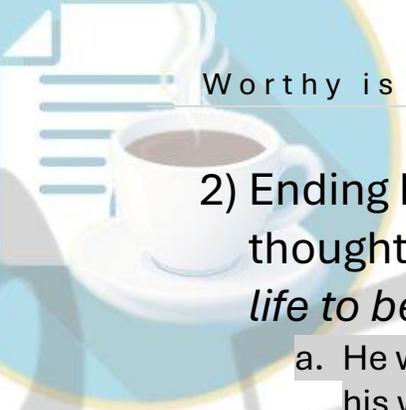
He wanted us to stop the idolatrous practice of blood worship (yes, the original intentions were there, but the actual practices degraded into meaningless formality⁵.)

He is a worthy lamb. He was slain and rose from the dead for our sake so we might see and believe the *true nature of God*. He *willingly* gave his life to end the need for blood worship. What does "ending blood worship" mean?

1) There was no longer the need to mindlessly sacrifice an animal in the attempt to please God.

a. Why did this come about in the first place? Because God led our ancestors to do this for their best understanding of righteousness at that time.

But the true nature of God is not blood sacrifice. *It was God's way of getting the attention of His people*. His righteousness and justice have *always been* about feeding and clothing the poor, to love your neighbor as yourself, and to not lean on your own understanding but to consult with him about your life^{6,7}.



2) Ending blood worship means ending the ritualistic thoughts that *some sacrifice is all you need to do in this life to be right with God.*

- a. He wants our hearts so we can better **make the mark** and follow his ways, not blind allegiance to rules.
- b. Ending blood worship means to stop allowing the fear of death to rule your life so you can live your life to the full^{bid}.

Why did he willingly sacrifice himself?

To claim victory over sin and death.

His victory is ours. We have won! He told us that our fears of sin and separation from God, our provider, and *our fear of what happens when we die were buried with him.*

He rose again to show us we can have new life because we are no longer slaves to sin and death, so that we can have new life to the full⁸.

That full life begins today. His resurrection has meaning for your life today.

We have new life to the full by listening to him daily through the Helper, the Holy Spirit⁹. This is the new covenant, agreement, with God. We are not governed by the old covenant any more^{10, 11, 12}.

But how can I claim this victory??



Victory Over Sin

Sin in the context of our relationship with God can mean two things: 1) the individual things we do and think that hurt others and ourselves and 2) how the things we do and think are off the mark and not aligned with God's justice and righteousness.

Remember, God's justice and righteousness have nothing to do with him being a selfish old man in the sky.

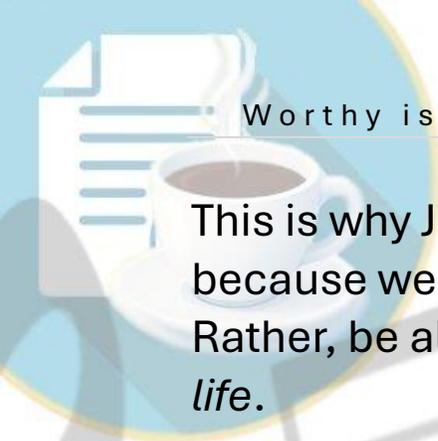
Rather, it speaks to his true nature of his administration of feeding and clothing the poor, to love your neighbor as yourself, and to not lean on your own understanding but to consult with him about your life^{ibid}.

Claim victory over sin today!

Victory Over Death

What is "death?" In the context of our relationship with God, it means two things: 1) the obvious passing away in this life and 2) separation from him.

When we pass, victory over death means that God guarantees we can live forever with him if we choose. But, if we choose separation from him *in this life*, we also choose separation from him when we pass.



This is why Jesus tells us to turn away from our sin, not because we *have* it, but rather so we are not *ruled* by it! Rather, be aligned with what God would have us do *in this life*.

Choose life to the full today by inviting Jesus to be the king of your heart!

Prayer

Jesus, king of my heart, let me understand your gift of *shalom*. *Let your invitation to live life to the full by the rules of the kingdom of God rule my days on earth. Amen!*

1. John 14:6. Read this in context.
2. <https://skipmoen.com/2009/10/archery/> gives a great synopsis and word origin analysis of David and Psalm 27.
3. Genesis chapters 2 and 3.
4. <https://en.amazingtalker.com/questions/1788>
5. Amos 5:21-24
6. Exodus 23:2-9
7. *An Analysis of the Origin of Blood Sacrifice* by yours truly and Google Gemini. The bottom line is that Jesus fulfills all former need.
8. John 10:10
9. John 16:12-15. But as usual, context is super important. Read John chapters 14, 15, and 16 and you'll understand the true role of the Holy Spirit in the death and resurrection of Jesus and God's *new covenant* with us.
10. Matthew 5:17
11. Hebrews 2:14-15
12. Hebrews 8:6, 13. Context, context. Become a hungry student of the words around all biblical text!