

**Biblical Animals: Lamb, Fish, Dove**

# **Biblical Animals: Lamb, Dove, Lion**

**By Chris Tipp**

**Lamb-baby sheep**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

-A spotless, unblemished lamb was used on during the Passover feast. The lamb's blood was poured on the doorpost so that the Angel of Death would Passover their door. Also a symbol of the commemoration of the Israelites being freed from Egypt  
-Exodus 12:3-13

**Lamb of God, Sacrificial Lamb**

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-Jesus who was sacrificed on Calvary freed His people from slavery to sin and death and becomes the Paschal Lamb.

-In John 1:29 John the Baptist exclaims “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

### **Baby Jesus, Baby Lamb**

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-The lamb foretells the future of the child Jesus as the one who will be the final and most perfect lamb to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of sin; to redeem mankind from the fall of Adam.

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-1 Corinthians 5:7 “Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast- as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”

### **Eucharist**

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-This stained glass is a vivid image of a lamb bleeding from the heart (Christ' Sacred Heart was pierced with a lance) and it is pouring into a chalice where Christ pours is in receiving the Eucharist (depicted on the banner, a cross) in the sacred body and blood of Jesus.

### **Jesus the Good Shepherd**

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-The Good Shepherd is the image of Jesus as one who is willing to lay down his life for his sheep, to protect them, guide them, and to bring them back to the fold when they are lost.

-John 10: 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

-John 10:14-15 “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father- and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

-Psalm 23 “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake...”

**Dove**

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-The dove is seen in scripture more times than any other bird and in many different situations. Because of the variety of places where a dove is present, it is fitting for it to be a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This is most clear at the baptism of Jesus.

## **Jesus' baptism in the Jordan.**

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-Matthew 3:16-17 “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

### **Noah and the Ark**

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-The dove brings Noah a sign of dry land and olive branch  
Genesis 8:11 “When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.”

### **Transfiguration**

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**Lion**

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-The lion is an obvious symbol of power, strength, and kingship. It is fitting to associate the lion with Christ as won the battle over sin and death.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
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Revelation 5:5 “Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its

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seven seals.' Then I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne..."