

Old Testament Shadows of Redemption: The Sacrifices – Pt. 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Last week we began our study of redemption in Christ by looking at the O.T. shadow provided in the sacrificial system.
 - A. We considered the shadow of blood sacrifices by looking at the Passover and the various Levitical sacrifices for sin and trespasses against God.
 - i. We saw how each of these sacrifices required the very best of the flock, always being an *unblemished* animal, and often of the first year of age.
 - ii. These requirements were to emphasize both the seriousness and cost of even a single sin!
 - B. We considered the staggering number of innocent animals that had to die throughout the years for God's people's sins. For, from the beginning of the nation until the ministry of Jesus...
 - i. The Passover would have easily resulted in 800,000,000 lambs sacrificed.
 - ii. The sin offering alone, not counting trespass, burnt, peace, and daily offerings (2 a day) would, again, *easily* account for **1,560,000,000** through the years.
 - iii. It is not that God just doesn't care about animals, seeing He created them, but that God cares about people and the seriousness of sin and the price required to address it!
 - C. We considered how **all** these sacrifices, being only a shadow of the real thing, were powerless to take away even a single sin! (Hebrews 10:1-4 – "For the law, having a **shadow** of the good things to come, and **not the very image** of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³ But in those **sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.** ⁴ For it is **not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**").
 - i. Here is the harsh reality that the attentive Jew, the ones who truly sought righteousness in God, would have likely known, or at least, felt from their sacrificial experiences.
 - ii. For, every year, time after time, millions of sacrifices were offered only for Israel to come to the Day of Atonement requiring another sacrifice to be offered for those same sins!
 - iii. For, all that blood and all that death were only a **shadow** of the real thing, requiring the **substance**, the **real thing** to which it pointed, for it to have any value.
 - D. And, we ended with the substance of these shadows being Jesus the Christ (John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**").
 - i. We need to grasp the statement's full meaning and implications!
 - ii. What John was saying is that in Jesus, the *firstborn* of God in the flesh, is found...
 - a. The focus of those billions of sacrifices made by the people and priests through the years.
 - b. The answer to the greatest question of man's existence—How can a sinner be redeemed from his or her sin? For, His perfect life and willing death on the cross is the first and only *effective* sacrifice able *take away sin*.
 - c. The one and only hope of salvation for all mankind!
2. This brings us to today's lesson in which I would like to take a further look at Christ as the **substance** of these sacrificial shadows and what that means to us today.

BODY:

I. The Fulfillment: Jesus is our Passover Lamb!

- A. To further solidify Jesus as the focus of the sacrificial shadows, He is presented as our **Passover Lamb** (1 Cor. 5:7 – "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**"). There are a few details of the Passover that we need to be reminded of.

1. Israel of old was to purge their houses of all leaven before the Passover and to keep it out of their house/use for the feast that followed.
 2. Each household had to sacrifice their *unblemished* lamb, place its blood around their door *by their own hand* (i.e., a direct connection), and remain in that house until morning, when the destruction from God had ceased.
- B. The fulfillment in Christ and His church!
1. As the Passover lamb was offered for Israel's *redemption* from their Egyptian bondage, we are *redeemed from sin's bondage* by the morally and spiritually unblemished sacrifice of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19 – "knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.").
 - a. All the Passover lambs offered year after year, as well as its rituals and requirements, pointed toward the offering of the real Passover in Christ!
 - b. So, as Israel was to observe the Passover/feast without leaven, we are to serve God as the purified, unleavened people Christ has made us, putting sin far from our lives.
 2. As Israel sacrificed their Passover lambs by their own hands, Christ our Passover lamb was said to be sacrificed by Israel's own lawless hands (Acts 2:22-24 – "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.").
 3. As God saw the lamb's blood around the Israelites' doors and caused the angel of death to pass over, so by *Christ's own blood* applied to our lives He "delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thess. 1:10)!
 4. As the Israelites had to remain *within the house* to be protected from God's wrath by the Passover blood, we must remain within Christ and His church to be protected from wrath.
 - a. It is the church that has been purchased by His blood (Acts 20:28 – "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.").
 - b. It is the church that is the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15 – "but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.").
 - c. If we hope to be partakers of Christ and His salvation, we must remain in Christ and His church till the end (Heb. 3:12-14 – "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in **departing from the living God**;¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.¹⁴ For we have become **partakers of Christ** if we **hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end**...").
 5. And as the Passover served as a reminder of the cost of deliverance the Jews' from Egypt, we meet each Sunday to partake of the *Lord's Supper* which is our reminder of the cost of our redemption through Christ's death and the shedding of His blood!

II. The Fulfillment: Jesus is our offering for sin

- A. Jesus was offered to bear the sins of the world.
1. In *conjunction with* and *in contrast to* the **Day of Atonement** where the high priest offered **atonement offerings each year** to cleanse himself, the holy place, and the people, Christ as our High Priest has offered himself once to bear the sins of the people for all time.

- a. Speaking of Aaron in contrast with the work of Christ (Heb. 9:21-28 – “Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.”²² And according to the law **almost all things are purified with blood**, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, **but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these**.²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;²⁵ **not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another**—²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**.²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,²⁸ **so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many**. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”
 - b. This passage makes reference to the work of the high priest on the DOA given in Leviticus 16 as well as Isaiah’s words concerning the work of Jesus as the suffering servant (Isa. 53:11 – “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.”).
2. The point of all this is Christ is the first and only **all-sufficient** sacrifice for our sins.
 - a. For, unlike the O.T. high priest who offered the same animal sacrifices for the sins of the people year after year, Jesus came to the earth **once** to present **one** sacrifice!
 - b. The O.T. sacrifices have been set aside for one, final, all-sufficient sacrifice, both on earth and in heaven, that **truly bore away our sins**, making His people pure and holy!
 - c. And, unlike the HP of old, Christ remains perpetually in the presence of God, the true Most Holy Place, not coming in or going out, continually making intercession for us!
 - d. So, when Christ appears the second time, it will be “apart from sin,” or not to deal with sin, seeing He has completely addressed that, but for His people’s salvation!
- B. As our sin offering, Jesus had to suffer **outside the gate** (Hebrew 13:10-12 – “We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”).
 1. The significance of this is that Christ’s crucifixion at Calvary was the fulfillment of the O.T. sin offerings that had to be taken and burned outside the city.
 2. This, of course, refers to Christ being taken to the hill of Calvary outside the city where He was crucified.
 3. As this O.T. right signified the people’s separation from sin, so Christ’s suffering outside the gate brought true separation from sin!
- C. With these things in mind I call your attention to one final passage:
 1. Consider what the work of Christ has brought to the world (Heb. 9:11-15 – “But Christ came as **High Priest of the good things to come**, with the greater and **more perfect tabernacle** not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.”¹² **Not with the blood of goats and calves**, but with **His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption**.¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,¹⁴ **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit **offered Himself without spot to God**, **cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, **for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant**, that **those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance**.”)

2. By Christ's sacrificial work in suffering and shedding his blood:
 - a. Fulfilled the whole O.T. system with the sacrificial system at its center, bringing complete redemption and true spiritual cleansing of the conscience from sin, which the old system could not do, being only a shadow!
 - b. He became the mediator of the new covenant, offering redemption for the sins of the world, including reaching back to atone for and redeem those sins of the Jews who faithfully served under the old covenant.

CONCLUSION:

1. I hope each of us have grown in our appreciation for:
 - A. God's eternal plan that we see being worked out throughout the ages, given in the shadows of the sacrifices and substantiated in Christ.
 - B. The amazing and costly nature of our redemption from sin, which was ultimately not found in the lifeblood of the billions of unblemished animals slaughtered for burnt offerings, but in the death of the very Son of God, the Creator of the universe!
 - C. Seemingly simple verses like 1 John 2:1-2, which actually carry profound meaning in saying, "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."
2. Yes, we have an Advocate with God, one who has offered Himself as propitiation for our sins and those of the whole world.
 - A. And, He seeks you that His blood might be applied to your sins that you, too, might have this redemption, the forgiveness of sin, and the hope of eternal life!
 - B. That can all begin right now if you will believe in Christ as your Lord and Savior, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Him as the risen Lord, and be baptized into Christ and His death to receive the forgiveness of sin and be raised to walk in newness of life!