

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

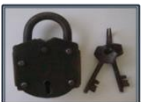
Week Two

Day Two

THE SACRIFICE: ONCE AND FOR ALL

“Jesus has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

(Hebrews 9:26)



Unlocking the Mystery

It is a great mystery how dying on a cross can be significant in taking away our sin. People always say, “Jesus died for my sins,” but I wonder how many people really understand how that happened and why it had to be that way. In this lesson, I hope you will obtain a greater understanding of the Old Testament sacrifice and how only Jesus could satisfy once for all the perfect blood sacrifice as the Lamb of God.



Understanding the Word

In the study of “THE LAW,” we learned that the moral law is what we still deal with today. Another part of the LAW was the CEREMONIAL LAW. This deals with Israel’s rituals of worship unto the LORD, including the sacrifice.

In Genesis, we learn of the perfect life in the Garden of Eden, and I am sure we have all learned about or at least heard about the serpent deceiving Eve and then Adam. That is called the FALL OF ADAM. Through the FALL OF ADAM, which we will discuss in a later study, God’s people were separated from God. Sin entered into the world and into the hearts of the people that once communed with Him. This broke God’s heart since the reason He created man was to have fellowship with Him, now that intimate fellowship was not possible.

God made a way for His people to worship Him and show sorrow for their sin through animal sacrifice. To our modern ears this seems like a cruel or even gross thing to do, but God told His people that only the shed blood of a perfect animal could cover sin, so the sacrifice was the answer. This whole system of sacrifice and the details of how to administer it was given to Moses to include in his writings.

DIGGING DEEPER: Leviticus 1-7

TYPES OF SACRIFICES/OFFERINGS

SIN: A mandatory atonement for unintentional sin against God. This offering required restitution; cleansing from defilement; making restitution. This offering required a ram.

GUILT: A mandatory atonement for specific unintentional sin; confession of sin; forgiveness of sin; cleansing from defilement. This included paying a debt, penalty, and compensation for damages against a person or the holiness of God. Young bull for high priest and congregation; male goat for leader; female goat or lamb for common person; dove or pigeon for the poor; fine flour for the very poor.

BURNT: A voluntary act of worship; atonement for unintentional sin in general; expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God. A bull, ram, or male dove or pigeon completely consumed.

GRAIN: A voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; submission, dedication and devotion to God. Grain, fine flour, olive oil, incense, baked bread, salt; no yeast or honey; accompanied burnt and fellowship offering.

PEACE/FELLOWSHIP: A voluntary act of worship and celebration of God's blessings and included a communal meal. Any animal without defect from herd or flock; variety of breads.

The order of multiple offerings represents spiritual significance in the sacrificial system. The order went SIN or GUILT offering to deal with sin in your life, then the BURNT offering so the worshiper could commit himself fully to God, followed by PEACE and GRAIN offerings to provide fellowship or communion between the Lord, the priest and the worshiper. This set an example for us today; deal with the sin in your life (confess and repent), commit yourself afresh to God, and then worship His greatness with thanksgiving and gratitude.

Most sacrifices offered a perfect animal. This unblemished, perfect animal was a substitute for the person offering it up, taking upon it the penalty deserved by the person. Blood represents life; Sin represents death. The lifeblood covered the sin when it was offered with a pure heart dedicated to living for God thus offering forgiveness and grace.

Not only were there different offerings, but there were several feasts. Though you would recognize Christ in each of them, I am bringing your attention to one in particular. This helps explain the mystery.

DIGGING DEEPER: Leviticus 16; 23:26-32

Who Am I? Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ
Week Two: Pieces of the Old Testament Puzzle *Day Two: The Sacrifice: Once and For All*

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Leviticus 23:27-28

V. 27 The tenth day of this seventh month is the _____ of _____.

V. 28 Do no work on that day, because it is.... when _____ is made for you before the LORD your God.

Atonement according to Merriam-Webster.com means “reconciliation, reparation for an offense or injury, satisfaction.” On this Atonement Day once a year (known as Yom Kippur), The High Priest would sacrifice on behalf of the nation. It was to repair the offensive sin and reconcile the nation back to God. The shed blood was the only satisfaction for the sin.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Leviticus 16:7-10

V. 7-8 How many goats are to be used? _____ He is to _____ one lot for the _____ and the other for the _____.

V. 9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and _____ it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented _____ before the LORD to be used for making atonement by _____ it into the _____ as a scapegoat.

Lots of animals were sacrificed in substitution for the sins of Israel. God did not desire for this to continue forever. Because God loved us so much, He sent His only Son to come to earth and be a final sacrifice for us all. He was known as the perfect LAMB OF GOD. This name comes from the sacrifice He made on our behalf. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; once and for all. His shed blood was the final atonement needed to reconcile us back to God. His blood purifies and consecrates us; it forgives us, and it brings us into fellowship with God. Jesus’ work on the cross was our substitution because it is we that deserved death. Just as the scapegoat bore Israel’s sins and removed them from their presence, Jesus bore our sin and removed it as far as the east is from the west.

DIGGING DEEPER: Hebrews 9:11-10:18

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 9:14

V. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to _____, so that we may _____ the _____.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 9:25-26

V. 25 Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is _____.

V. 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now He has appeared _____ at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the _____.



The sacrifice was presented on a regular basis. People became apathetic to the power behind it. Only the pure in heart were accepted. That is how it is today. Your motives and your heart condition determine if you are truly accepted and forgiven. You must draw near to God with a pure heart to receive the forgiveness associated with Christ’s sacrifice; that comes in your Salvation prayer. Then you must live your daily life as though you are sacrificing unto God. It may come as a sacrifice of prayer, worship, praise, time, money, attitude, behavior, or any other way that God directs. He wants you to live a life that has been atoned for by the blood of the Lamb, known as Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 sums it up for us... “Therefore, I urge your, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God –this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is –His good, pleasing and perfect will.”