



## **Week 16: Understanding the Old Testament: Sacrifice & Atonement**

**MV:** *"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Heb 9:22)*

A HOLY God and sinful people; how will this work out?

- \* Will it work?
- \* Will God lower His standards?
- \* Will humans live sinless lives?

What's the answer??? SACRIFICE

Jesus died as a sacrifice on our behalf.

The OT sacrificial system demanded a sacrifice for sin.

Jesus offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

### **ASK: Where do we first see sacrifice in the Bible?**

God made clothes for Adam & Eve out of animal skins

*"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them." (Gen 3:21)*

Where did the skins come from? An animal had to die!!! Why??? So the shame of sin could be covered

*"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings" (Gen 3:7)*

### **As soon as sin entered the world, God made a way to deal with that sin thru sacrifice.**

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. (Gen 22)

### **ASK: Why did Abraham obey God?**

He trusted in God, even to the point that God could raise his son from the dead

*"He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type." (Heb 11:19)*

This shows (1) God **could** accept a human sacrifice for sins and (2) God **could** accept a substitute for those sins (in this case a ram for a son).

The sacrificial system came into full use under Moses.

The Law dictated civil and moral behavior, religious life and ceremonial practices

Sacrifices were designed to show gratitude to God, to demonstrate a contrite heart before God, and to atone for sins.

ATONEMENT= AT ONE MENT (WITH)

This means reconciling (being made right with), make amends, reestablish peace among warring parties (yes, as sinners, we are at war with God for we are in rebellion against Him)

Animal sacrifices gave the gratitude a tangible way of showing sorrow for sin and a desire to have the relationship with God restored. It also provided a substitute that could be offered in Israel's place

Blood was necessary for an effective sacrifice.

*"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement."* (Lev 17:11)

*"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."* (Heb 9:22)

Imagine the scene—messy, bloody, smelly; every time you saw it you would be reminded of sin and its seriousness, consequences; you would see a graphic representation of what sin requires; you would be thankful someone or something else died in your place

Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement (October) (Lev 16)

God takes His worship seriously

One day, one man, enters the Holy of Holies to stand before God on behalf of the people. He sacrifices a bull for his own sins

He then sacrifices a goat and spills its blood on the ark; blood satisfies the wrath of God—the substitute was offered for people who deserved wrath; God didn't see the law broken but the blood spilt (how like Jesus???)

2<sup>nd</sup> goat hands are laid on it to lay the sins of the people on it; the scapegoat; it is set free into the wilderness to a remote location, never to be seen again (God casts our sins as far as the east is from the west). Guilt and condemnation are gone  
Repeated yearly

OT sacrificial system limited because it was repeated often.

It was always about the heart of the worshipper and not the value of the sacrifice.

God spoke of the uselessness of it all in Malachi; God would rather have nothing than less than your best

*"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands."* (Mal 1:10)

God is so offended by the false displays of worship that he threatens to take the poop of the sacrifices and smear it on their faces!!!

*"If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me. 3 "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it."* (Mal 2:2-3)

This all sets up the sacrifice of Jesus in the NT.