

## Christ - A Better Sacrifice

Typology – Greek- antitypos – copy/representation, type, figure (Hebrews 9:24)

The Old Testament was a “shadow of things to come”. Christ is the fulfillment. Nothing pictures this better than the sacrificial system.

- I. The Sacrificial System predates the law of Moses
  - A. The death of the animals to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21)
  - B. The “acceptable sacrifice” of Abel. (Gen. 4:4)
  - C. Noah made sacrifice when leaving the ark. (Gen 8:20)
  - D. Abraham and Isaac. (Gen. 22) Key phrase – “God shall provide Himself a Lamb for a burnt offering.” This speaks of the substitutionary sacrifice for the sons of Abraham (Gal. 3:7-9). Believers are the sons of Abraham through faith. Like Isaac, we were on our way to death, but a Ram (Christ) caught in the thorns took our place.
  - E. Job offered sacrifices for his sons and daughters, lest they had sinned. (Job 1:5) Job was a contemporary of Abraham which predated the law by hundreds of years.
  - F. The Passover Lamb. (Exodus 12) A lamb for each household. The application of the blood over the door and on the sides (pictures that only blood applied is effective). The meaning of the term Passover – to hover over. On the day of Passover, it was not the LORD who went throughout the land bringing death upon the firstborn of Egypt, it was the death angel (Lucifer). However, the LORD was present there in Egypt on that fateful day “hovering over/Passover” the homes of the ones where the blood was applied. What a beautiful picture of the protective covering of God over those who have submitted to the application of blood in their lives.
  - G. Note: It was understood that the result of sin was death. The Mosaic Law did not establish that fact – It simply borrowed from it.
  - H. Throughout the Scriptures, there is a scarlet thread, a road paved with the blood of the sacrifices. Multiplied millions of innocent animals died on behalf to the guilty humans, but not one of the sacrifices offered could ever take away sins. They were simply coverings, temporary shelters until the True Offering for sin would arrive. Once Christ came and offered Himself as a Lamb for a burnt offering to God, the types and figures were no longer needed.
- II. Types of offerings/sacrifices of the Old Testament.
  - A. Burnt Offering – Voluntary Worship – bull/sheep/goat/meal/turtle dove
  - B. Grain/Drink offering – Voluntary – Grain or Wine – Thanksgiving for harvest.
  - C. Peace Offering – Voluntary – Depicts an attempt for peace between two parties, sometimes toward God, sometimes toward another person. After the sacrifice was

made, the two parties involved would eat part of the sacrifice together – bull/sheep/goat/meal/turtle dove.

D. Sin Offering – Mandatory Requirement – Atonement – Bull/Ram/Meal/Turtle Dove

E. Trespass Offering – Mandatory – Unintentional sins/sickness – Bull/Ram/Meal/Dove.

### III. Things offered

A. Bullock – Depicts strength, burden bearing

B. Lamb – Depicts innocence, humility, submission

C. Goat – Scape goat – Carries the sins away where it will never be seen again.

D. Turtle Dove – Depicts freedom, innocence. Poor man/woman sacrifice. No one was excluded in the sacrificial system, regardless of ability.

E. Meal – Depicts the blessing and provision of God.

### IV. Requirements of the offerings.

A. Without spot, blemish, disease

B. Sometimes the first fruits

C. Sometimes a household lamb (day of Passover).

D. The best.

### V. Interesting Old Testament Sacrifices

A. Adam and Eve – God offers the sacrifice on behalf of the sinning parties. We don't know what animals were slain. However, blood was shed because of sin. The coats of skins that Adam and Eve wore after that were constant reminders of the cost of sin. The innocent died for the guilty. We also know that Adam and Eve taught the cost of sin to their sons, Cain and Abel. Abel sacrificed God's way. Cain sacrificed Cain's way.

B. Cain and Abel – Both offered sacrifices. Cain, because he was a tiller of the land, offered God a sacrifice from the fields. Abel, being a keeper of the flocks, offered God a blood offering from the flock. God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's sacrifice. "Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin." Cain was able to purchase an animal from the flock of his brother, but he did it his way, not God's way. This pictures the fact that "good intentions" are not sufficient in the economy of God. Doing things God's way, especially in matters of the requirement for the forgiveness of sins, is the only and right way. This is so important in our present day because the Gospel has been rejected, watered down, and depicted as antiquated and unnecessary. People are seeking the favor of God by their own methodology and works. God rejects such, just as He did with Cain. Cain could have repented and done it God's way. Instead he got angry with God and with Able, and through jealousy, pride, and rage, killed his brother. As a result, he became an outcast.

C. Abraham/Isaac – The perfect picture of the provision of God to save life.

- D. The Passover lamb – This is the story of the Exodus. In it there is the standoff between Pharaoh and Moses/God. The final proof of the power of God was the death of the firstborn throughout the land of Egypt. The way that the Israelites were to stay the death of their firstborn was the sacrifice of a “household” lamb. The night of the plague of death, the blood of the lamb was to be put on the upper and side door posts. On all the homes where the blood was applied, God would hover over the home and prohibit the death angel from bringing death to that household. This was the breaking point for Pharaoh and he told Moses to leave with the Jews. In this, the important thing to note is the application of the blood. Good intentions, procrastination, trying a different method, etc.... would not have sufficed. God’s way had to be carried out. Any other way would have ended in death. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST IS NO BETTER THAN CHICKEN’S BLOOD!!!! AGAIN, THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST IS NO BETTER THAN CHICKEN’S BLOOD!!!! TO DRIVE HOME THE STATEMENT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST IS NO BETTER THAN CHICKEN’S BLOOD. UNLESS IT IS APPLIED.**
- E. King Saul – Before a battle, Saul took the Priest’s matters into his own hands and offered a blood sacrifice to God to seek God’s favor. God instead refused the sacrifice of Saul and removed him from his position as king. The blood sacrifice was a proper sacrifice, but it was carried out in an improper manner. Again, to reiterate, we are obligated and required to do God’s worship in God’s way, not our own. “I worship God in my own way” is the statement of Saul and **IT WAS REJECTED**. We should be bold in telling this to people. “To obey is better than sacrifice and to harken is better than the fat of rams.”
- F. David on the threshing floor of Ornan – Plague of death was going through the land of Israel due to David numbering the people. To stop the plague, David got on his fastest steed in order to get in front of the plague. When he got there, Ornan was more than willing to freely provide whatever David asked. David refused the free offering saying, “I will not offer to God that which cost me nothing.” This pictures how the death of the sacrifice was able to stay the plague of death that ravaged the land. So it is today. It also pictured how the offerings to God should cost us something. So it is today.
- G. Soloman’s dedication of the temple. The dedication was concluded with sacrifices said to have included **"twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep"**. An animal for a household was probably the case here, but, irregardless, this shows how serious the people were about seeking the favor of God. Everything was dedicated by blood.
- H. Malachi’s statement – **Malachi 1:**<sup>6</sup> A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is

my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? <sup>7</sup> Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. <sup>8</sup> And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>9</sup> And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>10</sup> Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. <sup>11</sup> For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup> But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. <sup>13</sup> Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. <sup>14</sup> But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen. **Malachi 3:**<sup>8</sup> Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. <sup>10</sup> Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

## VI. Jesus – The Final Sacrifice for sin Forever.

- A. Matthew 1:21 “His name shall be called Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” There was only one method of delivering people from their sins – SACRIFICE. No other method was acceptable. In order for Jesus to save His people from their sins, He had to offer a sacrifice that God would accept. He would later state, “I come to do Thy will O God.” He would become the “acceptable sacrifice” in which the Father would be “well pleased.”
- B. John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” This was John the Baptist’s recognition of Jesus and His ministry and purpose.
- C. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the house of bread. Bethlehem was also known for the raising of sacrificial sheep. It was to “shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night” that the angel appeared with “good tidings of great joy that shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the LORD.” This is more than a Christmas time story. It is filled with great truths.

- Bethlehem – house of bread – Jesus would become the “bread of life”. It also depicts that He was the fulfillment of the meal offering.
- The message was to “shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night.” This is paramount, for shepherds would never leave their flocks, especially not in the middle of the night. To do so would make their sheep prey to the predators and put themselves in jeopardy with the people when the sheep were slaughtered. The only way they would have left their sheep would have been if they had confidence in the fact that the sheep would no longer be necessary.
- City of David – Again, paramount. Jesus was the offspring of David who will one day sit on the “throne of His father David” in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.
- Born in a stable – What a better place for the “Lamb of God” to be born?
- Micah 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Christ’s birthplace was a fulfillment of Scripture. The passage also shows Christ’s preincarnate nature.
- Christ could have been born in a king’s palace, for He was indeed the King of kings. Christ could have been born in the lap of luxury, for He was the “rightful heir of all things.” He could have been born to the home of the high priest, for He would one day be “the Great High Priest” of all who will acknowledge Him as such. He could have been born with an army of angels around Him to protect Him wherever He went, for He was the “Captain of the LORD’s host.” He could have been born in the household of the world’s greatest warrior, for He would indeed become the Greatest Warrior the world has ever known. He could have just been sent from heaven with halo and aura all around Him so the world would bow in wonder at such an incredible being and God as He was.
- **INSTEAD, HE WAS BORN TO A COMMON MAN AND WOMAN, IN A SMALL CITY, IN A STABLE, IN AN OBSCURE TIME AND OBSCURE SETTING. THOUGH GREATNESS AWAITED, HIS PATH WOULD NOT BE EASY OR SUGAR COATED. THERE WOULD BE NO EASY ROAD FOR JESUS. HE WOULD WALK LIFE AS A MAN. HE WOULD NOT BE OUTWARDLY BEAUTIFUL. HE WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZABLE AS GOD. HE WOULD BE GIVEN NO SILVER SPOON. HE WOULD DO WHAT HE HAD TO DO IN THE WAY THAT HIS FATHER ASKED, NEVER COMPLAINING, NEVER DODGING THE HARDSHIPS, NEVER ASKING FOR AN EASIER WAY. HE WOULD DIE IN OUR PLACE AS OUR SACRIFICIAL LAMB. IT WAS WHAT HE WAS ORDAINED TO DO. IT WAS WHO HE WAS.**

## VII. Understanding the Mercy Seat (Hebrews 9:3-5)

A. The Greek word for Mercy Seat is hilasterion. This word means place of mercy or propitiation.

- In the Old Testament, the Mercy Seat was located inside the holy of holies. Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest could enter the holy of holies with the blood of the atoning lamb and make atonement for the people. He would sprinkle the mercy seat, which sat over top of the ark of the covenant, with the blood of the lamb. God's presence, known as the Shekinah Glory, would be present there. When the blood of the lamb was sprinkled upon the mercy seat, God's mercy for the people would be carried out by His withholding of judgment which was rightfully deserved.
- Also, on the day of atonement, a scapegoat was symbolically released into the wilderness which was symbolic of the absolute removal of the sins of the people under the covenant.
- Hilasterion means place of mercy, for it was there that God would figuratively sit as the judge of all the world and choose mercy over judgment for the Jewish nation.
- Romans 3:21-28 is key to understanding hilasterion. Here, it is defined that righteousness, which we all lack (Romans 3:10) is not attained by our efforts but by faith in Christ and His redeeming sacrifice. We all are sinners (Romans 3:23) fully deserving of wrath, but God accepts the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf and shows us mercy (Rom. 3:25) on His behalf. As a result, the unjust are declared just (Romans 3:26) and the sinner is declared righteous (Romans 3:25).
- Man has 4 Spiritual mountains that he is incapable of climbing on his own.
  1. He is a sinner (Romans 3:23).
  2. He is NOT righteous (Romans 3:10)
  3. It is not in man's nature to be good or pursue God (Romans 3:11)
  4. He is spiritually dead because of his sins (Romans 6:23)
- Christ is God's antidote for each of these mountains. II Corinthians 5:21 says it best. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
  1. On the cross, Christ bore our sins and sin's punishment.
  2. Through our acceptance of His work on our behalf by faith, God bestows righteousness upon the forgiven sinner.
  3. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in the person whose faith is in Christ and thereby puts within us a new nature that desires goodness, righteousness, and the pursuit of God.
  4. The person who was dead is made alive (Eph. 2:1)

IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY, THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST IS BETTER