

Rediscovering Jesus in the Jewish Gospels
Blood Atonement by the Lamb of God
Lesson 54 Matthew 27: 35

1. Blood Atonement

- A. Origin** – God’s covering of Adam & Eve after their sin. “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”(Genesis 3:21). This required death of an innocent animal was established as the only acceptable offering to God and was communicated to Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3-7). We can deduce this because Abel practiced it, and God rejected the works of Cain’s hands and told him an acceptable sin offering was readily available (Gen. 4:7).
- B. Necessity** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; ... Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation... For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners” (Rom. 5:12, 17,18,19). “There is none righteous...For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 3:10,23; 6:23).
- C. Post Flood Continuation before the Law given at Sinai** Before the Law described clean and unclean animals at Sinai, Noah was instructed to save 7 of every clean animal. “Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female” (Gen 7:2). Certain animals were identified clean for sacrifice. “And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar” (Gen 8:20). The blood atonement offering was continued beyond the prediluvian world.
- D. Protection Through the Blood at the Exodus Passover**
“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses ... And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:5-13).
- E. The Mosaic Covenant of the Law established a national sacrificial system, with Tabernacle, and Priesthood.** “And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words” (Ex 24:8) “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement (*kâphar* – to cover) for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul” (Ex 20:24; 24:5-8; Lev 1-11, 17:11)
- F. The Institutionalization of the Blood Atonement through a National Temple**
The Tabernacle stood at Shiloh for almost 400 years. 1 Sam. 4:4; Ps. 78:60 (bone pits have been found by archaeologists indicating what Priests were allowed to eat- Leviticus 7:32).ⁱ Then at the Temple built by Solomon blood sacrifices reached an “industrial” scale. “which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.” (2 Chronicles 5:6.) 22,000 oxen were offered and 120,00 lambs were offered (2 Chronicles 7:5).
Two offerings per day, morning and evening, at the Temple from 965 BC to the Babylonian captivity in 605 BC. Offerings were reinstated under Ezra 536 BC – the Syrian defilement of the Temple in 164 BC. They restarted at 160 BC with the Maccabean rededication of the Temple - Jesus’ crucifixion in 32 AD.
Then add to that total the burnt offerings for individual’s sins times two million people.

In addition there was a lamb for every family every Passover. Cestius recorded for Nero that 225,000 lambs were offered on one Passover in Jerusalem. Millions of blood sacrifices of animals preceded Christ.

2. The Proclamation of Divine Blood to take away sins

John the Baptist proclaimed "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." (taketh away - Greek - *αἴρω* airō compare Strong's Concordance # [Heb.5375] – *nah sah* to *expiate* sin: Hebraism - away with; also translated as "bear the iniquity" Ex. 28:38; or to "carry away" Ezek. 38:13)

3. The Prophecies of Messiah's Blood atonement fulfilled by Jesus

"To him [Jesus] give all the prophets witness" (Acts 10:43)

"God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8)

"they pierced my hands and my feet." (Psalm 22:14,16).

"they shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zechariah 12:10).

"thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, He hath poured out His soul unto death. He bare the sins of many." (Isa. 53:6,10).

Jesus rebuked disciples who failed to believe that the real Messiah would die.

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things**, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27, John 5:39) "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." (John 5:46)

4. The Presentation of His Blood to God the Father on the real mercy seat in Heaven

"Don't touch me for I have not yet ascended to my Father." (John 20:17)

"*It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these" (Hebrews 9:11,23).

(Hebrews. 9:1-3,7,8,11-14,24,28) - "Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, **not without blood**, which he offered **for himself**, and **for the errors of the people**: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**"

5. The Results of the Atonement of Messiah's blood

A. Establishment of the New Covenant

Matthew 26:26 "This is **my blood of the New Covenant** which is shed for many **for the remission of sins.**"

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt**; which **my covenant they brake**, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But **this shall be the covenant that I will make** with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Heb. 10:4-29 – "For **it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins**. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but **a body hast thou**

prepared me: In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.** By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes **the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:** But this man, after **he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever,** sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For **by one offering he hath perfected for ever** them that are sanctified. *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, **This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;** And **their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.** Now **where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.** Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way,** (Greek - πρόσφατος Prospatos (*recently slain (fresh)*), that is, (figuratively) *lately made*) which he hath consecrated for us, **through** the veil, that is to say, **his flesh;** And *having* an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith ... Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering ... For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **(that there is only one perfect sacrifice that God accepts) there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted **the blood of the covenant,** wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

God's plan was to establish a new, permanent Covenant that would change the person internally ("into their hearts, and in their minds"). Jesus is the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement /Yom Kippur annual sacrifice for the nation. Jesus is the anti-type or the fulfillment of the animal sacrifices for Israel and the Gentiles once, and for all.

B. The end of the Law of Moses

"Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.** Peter concluded that **Jews and Gentiles are saved alike by faith through grace**" (Acts 15:10-11). Peter based that on the deity of Jesus as the Lord i.e.: the only one who can bestow salvation. The Mosaic Law had come to an end upon the death of Jesus therefore could no longer be applied to Jews or Gentiles. Paul made it clear that righteousness could only be gained by grace through faith (Romans 3:21-22, 31; 4:13-16) He goes on in Romans 7:1-6 to show that Jewish believers died to the Law so that they could be married to the Messiah. Paul indisputably states that Christ is the end of the Law to everyone who believes.

"From the onset, the Mosaic Law was intended to be a temporary rule of life for the Jewish people (Gal. 3:19). It was never meant to be the basis for justification (Gal. 2:16,21; 3:21; Rom. 2:4-28; 4:1-5; Eph. 2:8,9). Instead its purpose was to be a tutor and lead people to the Messiah so that they might be justified by grace through faith (Gal. 3:24). The Law had been given until the "seed" should come (Gal. 3:19-4:7). Now that the Messiah has come and fulfilled every aspect of the Mosaic Law and died on the cross, the Mosaic Law in its entirety, has been rendered inoperative as a rule of life (Matt. 5:17-18; Rom. 10:1-4; Hebrews 8:13). According to Hebrews 7:11,12, 18, the Law was annulled so that the Messiah could be priest. Upon His death, the Mosaic Law became obsolete and was replaced by the Law of Messiah (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6.2)."ⁱⁱ

Hebrews 10:1-4 The Law was a shadow of things to come – Jesus' complete fulfilment of the Law, and His paying the penalty for all who have broken the Law. The entire Law was a shadow of things to come. The entire Covenant of the Law, not just the sacrifices, was to be done away by the perfect Law Keeper and His final, blood

sacrifice as the Lamb of God. The sacrifices being offered every year were an indication that the sins of the people were not forgiven, only covered until the permanent payment was made. The continual offering of sacrifices reminded the people their sins were forgiven but not permanently paid for or taken away. The blood of animals was never God's intended provision for the remission of sins. Isaiah 1:10-18; Amos 5:21-27. An animal without a spiritual soul and without sin could never die as an equal substitute for a human soul. Therefore Isaiah said that God would make "his (Messiah's) soul an offering for sin" (53:10).

C. Removal of the Law's power and condemnation for those who believe

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians 2:14) "Blotted out" . . . The Law. It was Against us. (James 2:10; Galatians 3:10,11,24.) It is Contrary to us (Romans 3:10,23; 6:23; 5:12; 7:7). We are pardoned from guilt and shame (Col. 1:22). We are unreprouvable in His sight. We have received forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14). Also only an acceptable sacrifice would produce in the recipient a conscience freed of guilt before God (Heb. 10:2).

5. The Substitutionary Sacrifice

- A. Jesus' death paid for all the sins committed under the Mosaic Law "for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." (Hebrews 9:15) Those Mosaic Law sacrifices could never take away sin. (Hebrews 10:4)
- B. Jesus did not become sin or become tainted or guilty for sin but rather He was made to be the sin offering for us. In context this speaks of the Day of Atonement offering. "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." (2 Cor. 5:21)
Believers in Heaven are said to be there because of the washing by the blood of the Lamb. "These are they which ... have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14)

6. Eternal Benefits of Salvation Through Faith in the Blood of Messiah Jesus

- Union with Christ through His death – "in Him", "in Christ Jesus", "in the Lord" are used by Paul.
 1. We are crucified with Him Gal. 2:20
 2. We died with Him. Col. 2:20
 3. We were buried with Him. Rom. 6:4
 4. We were made alive with Him. Eph. 2:5
 5. We were resurrected with Him. Col. 3:1
- "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The believer's new position. "raised to walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).
- Placement in Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit upon faith to regenerate the sinful soul with the resurrected life of Christ (2 Cor. 1:22). "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." The spirit places the believing soul into permanent union with the Lord Jesus, using the analogy "baptized into Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21). "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now **save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**" It is union with the life of Christ by faith that saves us not emersion in water. The Spirit's permanent indwelling of the believer upon faith is a living connection to Christ for the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9).

7. Summary of Salvation Through the Messiah's Blood Atonement

“The biblical doctrine of penal, judicial substitutionary atonement states, in the simplest of terms possible, that Jesus/Yeshua, the sinless God-Man, took upon himself the penalty that should have been born by the sinner. His sacrifice on the cross substitutes for the punishment that the sinner deserves. Consequently, God’s justice is satisfied, and those who accept what the Messiah has done on their behalf can be pardoned and reconciled to God.”ⁱⁱⁱ

1Pe 1:18-21 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot**: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

Rom. 5:9 “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.)

ⁱ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/listen-at-shiloh-archaeologist-finds-artifacts-hinting-at-biblical-tabernacle/>

ⁱⁱ Soteriology of The Bible, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Ariel Ministries, San Antonio, Texas, 2023, p 123

ⁱⁱⁱ Soteriology of The Bible, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Ariel Ministries, San Antonio, Texas, 2023, p 35