

“Brought Near by the Blood of Christ” – Part 2

Ephesians 2:11-13; Exodus 12:1-13

BIBLICAL ATONEMENT

1. Definition. To atone is to make amends for wrongdoing, to make things right.

- The Bible is clear that all are sinners. Romans 3:23; Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 53:6
- The OT covenant pronounced a curse upon anyone who broke God’s laws. Deuteronomy 27:9-26
-Deut. 27:26: “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”
- James 2:10: “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails at one point has become accountable for all of it.”
- Atonement = ‘At one-ment’ I.e., the 2 parties which once were separated by sin are now ‘at one.’

2. Biblical atonement involves SUBSTITUTION – one takes the place of another.

- The one who deserves the punishment (judgment) is replaced by another so that the guilty one can be released.
- Vicarious = when something is experienced through the actions of someone else

3. Biblical atonement involves SACRIFICE – one suffers for the benefit of another.

- The innocent one (who does not deserve judgment) suffers the judgment which the guilty one deserves.
- In the Bible, this suffering necessitates the shedding of blood.
- Leviticus 17:11: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

4. Biblical atonement involves SATISFACTION – the one against whom the offense was committed is appeased.

- Appease = from Latin *ad + pais* (peace). The two parties are truly at peace.

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER. Exodus 12:1-13

The first Passover (Ex 12)	Meaning	Reflected in Jesus Christ
v.2: Israel’s calendar started over	a new life begins for you now	We are born again, new creations; life ‘starts over’ Jn 3:7; 2 Cor 5:17
v.3: appoint a lamb to be later killed	a planned sacrifice	Xt died by the pre-determined plan & foreknowledge of God. Acts 2:23
v.5: choose an unblemished lamb	a perfect sacrifice (w/o blemish)	Christ was ‘a lamb unblemished & spotless, the blood of Xt.’ 1 Pet 1:19
v.5: choose a year old male	a worthy sacrifice (fullness of strength)	Xt died not in old age, or youth, but in the midst of His days. Ps 102:24
v.6: all Israel killed their lambs together	a representative sacrifice (for all the people)	Xt died as a representative substitute for the people. Jn 11:50; 18:14
v.6: Lamb killed ‘between 2 evenings’	a Sabbath-preparation sacrifice	Xt crucified mid-day; <i>same time</i> lambs were slain in the temple. Mk 15:33
v.8-9: Passover celebrated over a meal	a fellowship-making sacrifice	Xt’s sacrifice restored relationship not only w/God, but with one another.
v.11: it is the LORD’s Passover	a God-appeasing sacrifice	a reconciling sacrifice an enemy-plundering sacrifice

CHRIST’S DEATH ON THE CROSS WAS THE ATONING SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS

1. Christ’s death was a SUBSTITUTION – He received the judgment and death we deserved.

2. Christ’s death was a SACRIFICE – He suffered and shed his blood for our benefit.

- 1 Peter 1:18-19: “...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ...”

3. Christ’s death was a SATISFACTION – He appeased the wrath of God and made us near to Him.

- Heb 10:12: “But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”
- John 19:30: “It is finished.”

A few New Testament Bible texts which speak of Christ as an atoning sacrifice...

- 1 Peter 3:18: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..."
- Eph 5:2: "...Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- Heb 9:26: "...but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
- John 1:29: [John said] Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
- Revelation 1:5b-6: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Hebrews 9:22: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.