

MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC/Week 24 – The Passover and the Sacrificial System

July 21, 2019

PASSOVER

Scripture introduces the “Lamb” in Genesis 22. And, from that time, Israel was waiting for the “Lamb” Who is GOD – Who would be the substitutionary sacrifice. In the book of Exodus at the account of the first Passover, we are reintroduced to the “Lamb.” God’s initial instructions to Moses regarding the Passover in Exodus 12:2-5 conveyed a new calendar which speaks to a new life, a new beginning.

Ex. 12:2-5 - This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. Moses was told to speak to the entire congregation of Israel. Yet, every man was to take for himself a lamb. . . a lamb for a household. AND, we read that “THE” lamb was to be counted according to each man’s need. “Your” lamb was to be scrutinized to determine if it was “without blemish” (Deut. 15:21). This spotless lamb was a personal provision from God. When was this to occur in the first month? On the tenth of the month. God was specific!

Ex. 12:6-7 - Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. The lamb entered the lives of the family members and was kept under scrutiny from the tenth of the month until the fourteenth. I believe that an attachment was formed. I truly believe that God intended for the lambs to be cherished and then mourned.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God told the children of Israel to remember what He had done on their behalf. He told them to rejoice in His power to deliver. He told them to thank Him for His sustenance and provision and to anticipate what He would do. In looking back, God instructed them to look forward – they were to look for the Lamb who would come as the ultimate sacrifice – JESUS - not only for the Jewish people but for the world! In looking forward, we are instructed to look back. Passover is pivotal in God’s plan of redemption.

THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

The children of Israel arrived at Mt. Sinai on the 15th day in the third month following the first Passover (Ex. 19:1). The 10 commandments were given. More commandments were conveyed to Moses from God (total of 613 commandments). Because no one can keep one commandment faithfully, and because God desired a relationship with individuals, God instructed the children of Israel to construct the Tabernacle while they remained at Sinai so that they could approach Him (God Who would dwell between the

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cherubim over the mercy seat on top of the ark of the covenant that was placed in the Holy of Holies) through the sacrificial system which He gave them.

Ex. 25:21-22 - You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Lev. 1:1-2 - Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock. ...and God gave the children of Israel the sacrificial system which points to the ultimate sacrifice for our sins – Jesus, the spotless, perfect Lamb of God!

*Lev. 17:11 – God told the children of Israel, For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ Atonement – *kaphar* (ka-FAIR) – to cover. Through atonement sins were covered UNTIL the ultimate sacrifice would be offered and TAKE AWAY sin (Psa. 103:12; Jer. 31:31; Eze. 36:24-26; John 1:29)*

Heb. 10:1-4 - For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³ But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

God continued to require the children of Israel to approach Him with a sacrifice. And, because the sacrificial system continued – for approx. 1500 years as the ultimate sacrifice had not yet been offered – Jesus, there remained a reminder of sins every year.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

WHY? Sin is in the camp – the camp of the children of Israel where God dwelled over the mercy seat between the cherubim in the Holy of Holies. Biblically, the Day of Atonement was to provide an atonement (lit., a covering) for sin, for the priests (including the high priest), and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people of Israel. Yom Kippur was divinely ordained “because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins” (Lev. 16:16). God chose to dwell amidst the children of Israel...the nation was required to stand clean before its holy God, thus the Day of Atonement.

Once a year, at the Day of Atonement, the High Priest, ONLY the High Priest was instructed to go into the Holy of Holies. BUT the High Priest was not sinless. He had to sacrifice a bull for his sins and for sins of his house and sprinkle the bull’s blood on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. The function of the human High Priest looked forward to the GREAT High Priest, Jesus, Who is without sin.

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The human High Priest killed the Lord’s goat for the people and brought its blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat. The High Priest made atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, because of their transgressions, for all their sins. The High Priest offered sacrifices for the tabernacle of meeting where God dwelled among the people.

The High Priests sacrificed for his own sins, his family’s sins, all the people of Israel, and for the Holy Place.

After the Lord’s goat was sacrificed and its blood sprinkled on the mercy seat, the High Priest laid his hands on the head of the scapegoat (the live goat), confessed over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, putting them on the head of the scapegoat.

The scapegoat was sent away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man (an escort). The scapegoat bore on itself all the people’s iniquities to an uninhabited land.

The Lord’s goat and the scapegoat foreshadow Jesus Who became the sacrifice and the scapegoat for all who call upon Him. The Lord’s goat was slaughtered for the sins of the people and the scapegoat took on the sins of the Israelites and removed them. The sins of people are both sacrificed for and driven away. The Day of Atonement foreshadowed the ultimate redemption that Jesus provides.

The glory of God would then dwell in the camp for another year until the next Yom Kippur.