

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

### JROC/Week 26 – THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

August 4, 2019

Psa. 84:1-4 - *How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young— even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.*

*<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah*

Psa. 51:17, 19 – *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,*

*A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.... <sup>19</sup> **Then** You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.*

WHY should we study the tabernacle in the OT?

- God created the whole world in six days. God instructed Moses about the tabernacle for over forty days (Ex. 24:18).
- Concerning the creation in Scripture, we note two chapters in Genesis, and several chapters in the Psalms. It has been documented that there are “...no less than fifty chapters regarding the tabernacle: 13 chapters in Exodus; 13 chapters in Numbers; 18 chapters in Leviticus; 2 chapters in Deuteronomy; 4 chapters in Hebrews...and other references.” (*Made According To Pattern*, C.W. Slemming)
- *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself* (Luke 24:27). The tabernacle points to Jesus.
- Jesus told the Jewish leadership of His day, *If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.* (John 5:46). Moses wrote much about the tabernacle which speaks of the promised Messiah, Jesus – and God’s plan/design of redemption.

How were people saved in the OT?

A common misconception about the OT way of salvation is that Jews were saved by keeping the law. That is not true.

Gal. 3:11 - *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’* (Paul is quoting Hab. 2:4 – the OT!!!!)

Rom. 3:20 - *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The purpose of the law was to make the people conscious of sin, cognizant of their NEED...the purpose of the law was to lead the people to the Messiah, Jesus! (Gal. 3:19, 24)

There is one way of salvation throughout Scripture: by grace alone through faith alone in God's revealed message which is the Messiah Jesus – in Him alone! The basis of salvation in every age is the death and resurrection of Jesus! The amount of knowledge a person had concerning the specifics of God's plan increased as God has unfolded His plan of redemption.

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Who God is...holy, just, loving, gracious, merciful, immutable. God is NOT a different God in the OT!! Mal. 3:6 – *I am the LORD, I change not, therefore, you sons of Jacob are not consumed.* God is faithful. We need to remember that God created man for relationship. God is holy; He is Judge of the earth (Gen. 18:25)

How were the OT people to approach a HOLY God as sinners?

Realizing they were sinners, acknowledging Who God is, trusting in Him and in His promises. God broadcasted His promise-plan to the people down through the ages.

- The promise of the “Seed of the woman” was given to man immediately after man sinned (Gen. 3:15).
- Blood was shed when God provided for the man and woman the skin of an animal (Gen. 3:21)
- The lamb was introduced in Abraham's day.
- The lamb was reintroduced at the first Passover.
- The Jewish people were redeemed...delivered physically from Egypt. At Mt. Sinai God gave the law (613 commandments) to the Jewish people through Moses.
  - Gal. 3:19 – the law was given because of transgressions/sin.
  - The law restores the soul (Psa. 19:7) because the law which reveals sin proclaims/declares our need of the One Who would come and be our substitute... Who would die for our sin.
  - The law was temporary 'til the “Seed of the woman” would come.

- The law revealed their sin and demonstrated their need of a Savior. The law was their tutor pointing to Jesus (Ga. 3:24).
- The 613 commandments was a HUGE part of God's unfolding of the plan of redemption.
- How would sinful man approach a holy God to ENJOY that relationship for which God had created man?
- Within the 613 commandments - God gave the Jewish people the sacrificial system.

How does the sacrificial system work? Some Bible teachers, theologians, Pastors have said, "God does what no good judge would think of doing as in grace He nullifies/cancels out His own law"!!! Is that what God's grace does?

Baker's Dictionary of Theology, p. 77 – God REFUSES to waive the demands of the law. Rather, in LOVE He Himself meets the law's demands through the vicarious sacrifice/substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus. And so, instead of making void His law, God establishes His law (Rom. 3:3) – confirms it! AND God HIMSELF satisfies the demands of the law through sending GOD THE SON to pay the penalty for our sin.

The law cannot be cancelled out because God MUST deal with sin – He is holy and He is just! God must be true to Himself!

Matt. 5:17 - *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* Does God's grace cancel out His own law? NO! The law and grace work in harmony!

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Gal. 3:21 - *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.* The law and the promise (through the Messiah) are not on opposite sides. God has one plan...one purpose. The law and the promise are both from God! GOD gave Israel the law. GOD gave Israel the promises (through the Messiah) for the world. GOD does not work against Himself. The law and the promise work in harmony. The law reveals man's sinfulness and need for the salvation that is freely offered in the promise of the Messiah. And within the law God provided the way back to Himself after sin separated man from God. That provision: the sacrificial system which foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice for sin...the Messiah Who fulfills God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 22.

FORESHADOWS the ULTIMATE SACRIFICE for sin – the Messiah Who fulfills God's PROMISE to Abraham in Gen. 22:8 - *God will provide HIMSELF the lamb!*

The promise made by God of a substitutionary sacrifice.

Hebrews 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. <sup>2</sup> For then would they not have ceased to be offered? (If the animal sacrifices could make a person perfect, then there would be no more sacrifices) For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins <sup>3</sup> But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*  
The sacrificial system prior to Jesus' sacrifice produced a REMINDER of sins.  
Redemption speaks of the means by which one is saved – by which salvation is received – by the payment of a ransom – payment paid for the release of a prisoner!

When was that payment made? When Jesus died for our sins. BUT Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). How are we to understand all this?

God is transcendent – He is above time and space. From God's perspective, His plan is complete. It is done.

But how did the children of Israel understand the sacrificial system? How did they view the tabernacle in the wilderness and in the Promised Land when it was erected at Shiloh? Think of Psalm 84 – “How lovely is Your dwelling place” - even with all the slaughtering of the animals and the blood!

We do read of atonement and redemption in the OT.

Atonement is explained by the verb *kaphar* in the Hebrew which means to cover. Through atonement sins were covered UNTIL the ultimate sacrifice would be offered and TAKE AWAY SIN (Psa. 103; Psa. 103:12; Jer. 31:31; John 1:29). Atonement is also explained, although not many times in the OT, by *kopher* which is the noun which means the price for a life, a ransom (Ex. 21:30; 30:11-16)! Gen. 6:14 (KJV) – the ark pitch (*kaphar* – verb – to cover) it within and without with pitch (*kopher* – noun – price for a life; ransom). In Gen. 6:14 (KJV) – with *kopher* we see a FORESHADOWING of the ransom price that would be paid by Jesus.

In Ex. 30:12, in the building of the tabernacle, a numbering of the people/a census was taken, and there was *a ransom (kopher) for his soul*. This atonement money paid at the first census furnished the silver for the sockets of the tabernacle boards. The

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tabernacle which is a foreshadowing of Jesus was built upon a ransom price - looking forward to Jesus paying the ransom for us!

Can we understand redemption in the OT this way: it is a happening at the time, in Biblical times, as a physical deliverance for the people (out of Egypt), a purchasing of land, of a payment at that time (kinsman redeemer)... God is Israel's Redeemer because He physically delivered Israel from Egypt. **AND** it is a foreshadowing of what Jesus will fulfill when He redeems us, when He pays the ransom price..purchasing us from bondage to sin!

Blood sacrifices were required morning and evening (Ex. 29:38-46). God created a shelter of sacrificial blood to protect worshippers from His wrath. In Ex. 32 and 33 – the glory of God left the camp after the golden calf escapade. Ex. 33:3 - *Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way.* (Ex. 33:14 – *My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest.*) At Yom Kippur every year, the people and the tabernacle needed to be cleansed so that God would continue to dwell with them.

The sacrificial system was temporary, however, it provided reconciliation between God and man. How do we know?

- God continued to dwell in their midst.
- God led the children of Israel to the Promised Land!
- Ex. 29:38-39, 42-46 - *Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. <sup>39</sup> One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. ... <sup>42</sup> This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. <sup>43</sup> And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. <sup>44</sup> So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. <sup>45</sup> I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.*

Why was the sacrificial system temporary?

- Heb. 10:1-4 – the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sins.
- It served as a tutor to lead the people to see their need and yearn for the Messiah.
- The Messiah was prophesied. He HAD to come. God had PROMISED!