

The Atoning Sacrifice of The Lamb

The gospel according to the prophets

W. Cochran wayne.cochran@gmail.com

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
1 John 1:9

Covering Sin

Trying to cover our own sin and shame in the garden
*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and
they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.* Genesis 3:7

God provides a covering
*And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed
them.* Genesis 3:21

Where do the skins come from?

Christ endured the open shame of the cross
*Jesus ... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the
shame...* Hebrews 12:2

- John 19:23 — the soldiers took and gambled for Jesus' clothes — He was crucified naked

The Mercy Seat

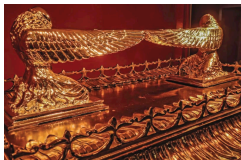
Mercy Seat the cover (כַּפֹּרֶת kaporet) on the
Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25, Hebrews 9:5)

LXX: hilasterion (ἡλαστήριον) "thing that atones"

Latin: propitiatorum, English: **propitiate**

MT: verb (כָּפַר kaphar) "to cover sins," **"to atone"**

The ark was kept in the Holy of Holies
which could only be entered by the high priest
on the Day of Atonement (כִּיּוּר Yom Kippur)
Leviticus 16:13-15



- *There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.*
Exodus 25:22

Death of the Firstborn

Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son." Exodus 4:23

Unlike other ancient near east rulers, Pharaoh did not merely rule for the gods, he was literally one of the gods (*Deity, Moses and the Gods of Egypt*)

His birth was a divine act -- a child of deity. Begotten by Amon-Re upon the queen mother.

The Pharaoh's duty was to defeat **Maat** (goddess of cosmic balance and order)

I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. Exodus 12:12



User: Formal Space
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maat_(Goddess).png
CC BY-SA 4.0

- The ten plagues are a polemic against the gods of Egypt

The Passover Lamb

Jesus enters Jerusalem	Jesus Crucified	Jesus Rises

Nisan 10 Lamb chosen Exodus 12:1-5	Nisan 14 Lamb killed Exodus 12:6	Nisan 17 Pass through Red Sea
lamb shall be without blemish Exodus 12:4 no bones broken Exodus 12:46 Psalm 34:20, John 19:36		

- month name change: Abib -> Nisan (Neh 2:1, Esther 3:7)
- Two calendars: sacred and civil -> new creation

The Passover Lamb

Substitution: The death of the *paschal lamb* (קרבן פסח) takes the place of the firstborn

pesach פסח: "to pass over, protect." The LORD "passes over" ... the destroyer is not allowed to enter (Exodus 12:13, 23)

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:19

"For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7

"lamb without blemish or spot." 1 Peter 1:19

"Lamb who was slain" Revelation 5:12, 13:8 (30 references in Revelation!)

The Last Supper

Luke 22:7-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Luke 22:7

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." Luke 22:10



Triumph

Exodus: the triumph over the Egyptian army and their gods

Song of Moses: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea." Exodus 15:1

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:13-15

- The ark set out and seemed to cause the enemies to scatter (Numbers 10:34, 35) — The LORD was with them.

Levitical Sacrifices

atonement = purification / cleansing

Offering	Lev	Description
Burnt	1	Whole animal consumed by fire. "Atonement."
Grain	2	Food offering, Unleavened flour / grain, oil, spices.
Peace	3	From herd or flock. Thanksgiving (Lev 7:12-25)
Sin	4-5	"If a person sins unintentionally..." not moral sin
Guilt	5-6	Reparation. Forgets to testify, touches dead animal, ...

These are all for *unintentional sin* — not defiant sin ("sin of the high hand")
Numbers 15:27-31

Do not eat fat or drink blood
"soothing aroma to the LORD"

death
exile

- "wave offering" Lev 7:3-31 (signifying this belongs to God)
- "votive / vow offering" Lev 7:16-17

Purpose of Levitical Sacrificial System

No sacrifices for murder, adultery, idolatry, ... or any "willful sins."

Ritual purification: meant for cleansing ("atoning for") a person so that they are acceptable to enter into worship.

Ritual defilement often occurred for things that are unavoidable

Injury, skin blemish, menstruation, giving birth, touching dead body, ...

Priests were not to defile "sacred space." We are meant for a better place!

"It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Hebrews 10:4

Superiority of Jesus over Moses: Jesus' sacrifices covers and cleanses for all sin!
by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14

The Day of Atonement Leviticus 16

Center of the Torah

Expiation of sin or impurity: to "remove, cancel, annul, cleanse"

Propitiation of sin: to "appease, placate, satisfy"

God is the object — He is satisfied and His wrath is averted

- Genesis 33:32 — Jacob prepares gifts for Esau: *Jacob tells his messengers to say, "Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will **propitiate** him with the gift that goes before me".*



Two Goats

Goat for sin offering

Blood sprinkled on and in front of the atoning cover

Atonement for Aaron, his household, and all the assembly of Israel

Propitiation / substitution : death / blood pays the penalty of sin



The scape goat

Aaron lays his hands on the head of the live goat and confess all the sins of Israel

The goat is sent out into the wilderness

Expiation : the goat "carries away" the sin

Atonement

covers our sin

triumph over our enemies

substitute for the punishment of our sin

expiation : cleanses and removes our sin
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow
Isaiah 1:18

propitiation : Christ's satisfies the justice of the Righteous Judge

*And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and
the song of the Lamb, saying,*

*"Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!*

*Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

Revelation 15:3,4