

# Atonement

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# Atonement

## Introduction

The study on the Atonement of Jesus is exhaustive. The Atonement is fundamental to the saving grace and reconciliation of man to God through Jesus our Lord and Savior. The work of Jesus has at its core Atonement. Our Messiah Jesus also worked in the Messianic Office of Prophet, King and High Priest. Notice I said Office, not offices. All three constitute the singular office of Messiah. This study will focus upon the Atoning work of Jesus.

To rightly study Atonement, one needs to also study and understand the Nature of God, the true meaning of the Passover and the Day of Atonement, Justification, Propitiation, Reconciliation, Redemption, Sanctification, Vicarious (Substitutionary) and Sacrificial Death of Jesus, the meaning of the Cross of Messiah and why blood *had* to be shed, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus as the firstfruit of the believers resurrection to eternal life. To apprehend the fullness of the Atonement, we will begin in the Old Covenant where God instituted His Feast Day observances and ordinances that points to the work of God at Calvary.

All the above subjects are included as separate studies in the appendices. They are not attached to this document but may be found at the Topical Study site of The Lord's Children website, In the Soteriology index.

[http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible\\_study/topical.htm](http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/topical.htm)

Christianity is now coming under more attack than ever before and not only from the usual sources. Many groups are now being formed under the guise of "Christian" churches that have no real resemblance to biblical Christianity. Many of the core tenets of Christian doctrine are being removed, altered in meaning, and flatly rejected and being replaced with man made philosophies and theologies. Some of these worldly philosophies are now being pawned off as Christian dogma, which it absolutely is not. Cults and non-Christian groups twist and pervert Christian dogma beyond recognition. The Atonement of Jesus is one such doctrine subject to attack by these groups.

The purpose of this paper is to reinforce the traditional Christian doctrine as passed down through the ages and taught in Scripture. This is an essential teaching of Christianity and a fundamental work of Jesus Christ. All Christians need to know the significance and sacredness of the Atonement of Jesus as well as what it does and does not accomplish. We will identify false teaching concerning the Atonement and the groups advocating such false teaching.

## Old Covenant Feast Days

We'll begin our study with a look at the Feast Days God instituted in the Old Covenant that pointed to the Atoning work of Jesus the Messiah. All the Feast days pointed to a significant role in the prophetic redemptive act of God in bringing His people of both Old

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and New Covenants into relationship with Himself. We will review all seven Feast Days God instituted, as well as the weekly Sabbath, to show the prophetic meaning of how all the days pointed to the work of Messiah Jesus in restoring the severed relationship between God and His people due to sin. A summary of all the Feast days of God may be found in the book of Leviticus, chapter 23. We will not be discussing in this study the ordinances of The Sabbatical Year, the Year of Jubilee, New Moon, Purim nor the Feast of Dedication.

### The Weekly Sabbath

The weekly Sabbath is a day of solemn rest. Unlike what most have been told or taught, the Sabbath was not instituted to represent a day of *physical* rest. It was instituted to represent the day of our *eternal* rest in God ... Salvation ... what Christians refer to as Eternal Life. This Sabbath was established in the creation account and is later codified under Mosaic Law. Physical rest was commanded as a weekly reminder of our eternal rest due to God's redemptive work leading to Salvation through Messiah Jesus. Most wrongly focus upon the symbol and ignore the substance. Physical rest is the symbol, eternal rest is the substance. Carnal minds focus on the symbol, spiritual minds focus upon the substance. God instituted symbols to represent the substance. God never had physical rest as His primary purpose for resting, nor in sanctifying the seventh day.

Genesis 2:2 -3

- 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and **He rested on the seventh day** from all His work which He had done.
- 3 Then **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God created the seventh day by resting from His work of Creation. God did not need to rest for God does not get tired, nor does He ever get weary. God sanctified this time period because it is a time when all the saved will be as one with God. It represents a time of sinlessness, joy, peace, prosperity, and eternal life in God. Death will be no more. This is a holy time to God and represents those who are sanctified, separated for a holy purpose. Jesus says it best when He teaches us that man was not made for rest, but rest made for the man.

Mark 2:27-28

- 27 Jesus said to them, "The **Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.**
- 28 "So the **Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**"

Jesus is speaking and teaching us that He is Lord of Eternal Life, our eternal rest in God. Some Christian denominations claiming the Sabbath day was changed in the New Covenant to Sunday and no longer is a "Christian" Sabbath from sunset Friday through sunset Saturday. This is completely false and non biblical. There is no such distinction in the mind and purpose of God that distinguishes two Sabbaths, one for Christians and

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one for Israel. When the meaning of Sabbath is understood, the teaching of "changing of days" makes no sense at all. The so-called Christian Sabbath teaching has more to do with imposing non-biblical legalism under the New Covenant, which requires people to gather together for weekly worship services, but does little to impart biblical truth and understanding. There is no such command to change the day or to worship on a given day existent in the New Covenant.

With an indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, Christians have already entered God's Sabbath. There is no biblical or spiritual need to "change the day." That thinking is carnally based and contrary to the bible's teaching on the meaning of the Sabbath. The New Covenant does not contain a legalistic system of worship. We are not commanded to observe one day over another. Sunday is not the Christian Sabbath ... every day is our Sabbath for those who have an indwelling of God's Holy Spirit.

The book of Hebrews, chapters 3 and 4 speak to the true meaning of the Sabbath rest. Let's take a look at two verses in Matthew.

Matthew 11:28-29

28 "**Come to Me**, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.**

28 "**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

## Passover

This day always pointed to the unique work of Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb. Ironically, this is the only commanded feast day of the Lord that is not a High Sabbath, a day of solemn rest. A Sabbath other than the weekly Sabbath is referred to as a High Sabbath. Let's examine the symbolism of the Passover.

Exodus 12:3

"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, '**On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a *lamb* for themselves**, according to their fathers' households, **a *lamb* for each household.**

The Passover Lamb to be slain was to be an *unblemished male*. The unblemished male lamb points to the sinless life of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 12:5

'**Your *lamb* shall be an *unblemished male*** a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

The lamb is to be *killed by the entire congregation of Israel*. Jesus was killed by the entire congregation of Israel through the system of Roman government. Both Jew and Gentile, all humanity, is involved in the slaying of the Lamb of God ... Jesus.

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Exodus 12:6

'You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then **the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.**

Jesus was killed at twilight. The blood of the Lamb protected those in Egypt (a type for sin) from the wrath of God upon sin ... Egypt. The blood of Lamb - Jesus - protects us today from God's wrath upon sin as well. This sacrificial lamb is a symbol for the substance of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and our vicarious sacrifice.

Exodus 12:7

'Moreover, they shall **take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses** in which they eat it.

The blood is propitiation to God. It is a sign that satisfies God's punishment for sin, for sin must be punished. The holiness and righteousness of God demands justice for crimes against God ... sin. God will "pass over" the houses where he sees the blood of the lamb.

Exodus 12:13

'**The blood shall be a sign for you** on the houses where you live; and **when I see the blood I will pass over you**, and no plague will befall you to destroy [you] when I strike the land of Egypt.

God does the same with us today through Jesus our *propitiatory* sacrifice to God for sin. God instituted a sacrificial system to establish that a sacrifice from a party other than the one who is guilty of the offense will be acceptable to God as a *propitiation* for the sin of the guilty party. The sacrificial system was instituted to point to the sacrifice of Jesus, God in the flesh, as satisfaction and justice to God for sin. God did not hold an innocent third party to pay the penalty for sin for He Himself paid it in our stead by humiliating Himself by the incarnation and suffering; becoming man and suffering at the hand of man and in the humiliation of becoming the sacrificial payment for sin, thus satisfying the justice of God.

The Judge has declared man guilty! ... But the Judge Himself lowered Himself from His Heavenly Throne and paid the price for our offense to Him Himself.

Exodus 12:14

'Now this day will be a **memorial to you**, and you shall **celebrate it [as] a feast to the LORD**; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it [as] a **permanent ordinance.**

Jesus, God with us, satisfies the permanent ordinance of the Feast of Passover.

1 Corinthians 5:7

¶ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are [in fact] unleavened. For **Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**

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Jesus instituted the *symbols* of unleavened bread and wine as our acceptance of the *substance* of His sacrificing Himself. The true substance being His own sinless flesh ... represented by unleavened bread; and His blood ... represented by the wine.

1 Corinthians 10:16

Is not the **cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?** Is not the **bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?**

These symbols of the New Covenant were instituted by Jesus Himself.

Luke 22:19-20

19 And when He had taken [some] bread [and] 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.**"

20 And in the same way [He took] the cup after they had eaten, saying, "**This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.**"

### Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was instituted by God to symbolize the need to purge sin from the lives of His people. This represents the sanctified state of His people who have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus our Passover as propitiation (satisfaction) to God for our sins. The Feast of Unleavened bread is a feast lasting 7 days with the first and last days being high days, i.e. Sabbaths of solemn rest and worship.

Exodus 12:15-16

15 '**Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread**, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for **whoever eats anything leavened** from the first day until the seventh day, **that person shall be cut off** from Israel.

16 '**On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and [another] holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them**, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you.

We are sanctified ... *declared* holy by God, and *separated* by God from all that is unholy ... not because of who and what we are but because of who and what Jesus is. This is about the acts of God on behalf of man ... what God does for us. It is not about man and what man can do for God ... but what man can do in gracious acknowledgment of what God has done, and is doing for us. This feast represents the gracious privilege of those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb to purge sin from their lives and to live a life that brings us closer to the Lord by obeying Him. Obedience is the response of one graciously saved by God. This obedience in response to God is called Progressive Sanctification. It represents the time where we are focused upon removing sin from our lives and voluntarily subjecting ourselves in obedience to the Lord. We are *immediately*

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*declared holy* because of Jesus, (Sanctification) and we now strive to *live a holy life* through our walk in the Lord (Progressive Sanctification.) Works has its place in the Christians life after Salvation, not before it. Works is part of Progressive Sanctification ... narrowing the gap between our *declared state of holiness* due to the work of Jesus and our living the *works (fruit) of holiness* in our behavior, attitude and walk.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

- 7 ¶ **Clean out the old leaven** so that you may be a new lump, just as **you are [in fact] unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**
- 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, **not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

## Feast of First-Fruits (Harvest, Ingathering)

The Feast of Firstfruits, also known as the Feast of Harvest and the Feast of Ingathering, points to the promise of the harvest to come. This feast is a High Sabbath.

Exodus 23:16

"Also [you shall observe] the Feast of the Harvest [of] the first fruits of your labors [from] what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in [the fruit of] your labors from the field.

This is the future ingathering of all God's people, Jews and Gentiles alike. Jesus has often commented on this future in-gathering.

John 4:34-38

- 34 Jesus \*said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.
- 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.**
- 36 "Already **he who reaps is receiving wages** and is **gathering fruit for life eternal**; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.
- 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.'
- 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

The Old Covenant also spoke to the early harvest, the first of the firstfruits.

Exodus 34:26-27

- 26 **"You shall bring the very first of the first fruits** of your **soil into the house of the LORD your God.** "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."
- 27 Then the **LORD said to Moses**, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words **I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.**"

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**This first of the firstfruits represents the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the first of the firstfruits or the true early harvest ... the harvest of souls by God.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 ¶ But now **Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.**

21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as **in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

23 But each in his own order: **Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**

### Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

This is known as the Feast of Weeks for it is the only feast where one needs to count seven weeks (Sabbaths) after the Feast of Firstfruits, from the time of the wave offering of the sheaf. One is to count 50 days starting the day after the Sabbath. Pentecost literally means 50.

Leviticus 23:15-16

15 ¶ **'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath,** from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be **seven complete Sabbaths.**

16 **'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath;** then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

What is interesting with this feast is it involves the offering of two loaves of leavened bread. Each loaf represented the two Covenants God has made with His people. It is the **joining of both the Jew and the Gentile into ONE BODY in Christ Jesus, the church by and through the coming of the Holy Spirit.** Gentiles are grafted into Israel.

1 Corinthians 12:13-14

13 For by **one Spirit** we were all baptized into **one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and **we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

14 **For the body is not one member, but many.**

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 ¶ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, **excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise,** having no hope and without God in the world.

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- 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**
- 14 ¶ For He Himself is our peace, **who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,**
- 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself **He might make the two into one new man,** thus establishing peace,
- 16 and might **reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross,** by it having put to death the enmity.
- 17 **AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;**
- 18 for through Him **we both have our access** in one Spirit to the Father.
- 19 So then **you are no longer strangers and aliens,** but you are **fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,**
- 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
- 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
- 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

And again in the book of Romans, it speaks to how we are all **grafted into Israel,** we have **become spiritual Jews** and **inheritors to all the promises.**

Romans 11:16-19

- 16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.
- 17 But if **some of the branches were broken off,** and you, being a wild olive, **were grafted in among them and became partaker with them** of the rich root of the olive tree,
- 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.
- 19 You will say then, "**Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.**"

Romans 2:29

But **he is a Jew who is one inwardly;** and circumcision is that which is of the heart, **by the Spirit,** not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

## Feast of Trumpets

God instituted the Feast of Trumpets to Herald the Second Coming of the Messiah God, Jesus the Christ. Trumpets in the Old Covenant were used to gather Israel for worship, to warn of impending war or attacks, to gather the army for battle, to herald the coming

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of dignitaries, and to bring attention for any special gathering or significant event. This feast day is also a High Sabbath.

Leviticus 23:24-25

24 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the **seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest**, a reminder by **blowing of trumpets**, a **holy convocation**.

25 'You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.'"

We see in the book of Revelation, seven Trumpets of God being used with the final trumpet blast heralding the coming of Jesus with the armies of God and all the saints of God. The saints are all the saved people of God that have died prior to the return of Jesus from both the Old and New Covenants. The saints who are alive, those who are born again, will be gathered to Jesus at His return.

Matthew 24:30-31

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

31 "And **He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET** and THEY WILL **GATHER TOGETHER His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

When Jesus returns he will resurrect the bodies of the saints who died and reward them with a new eternal body ... One that will never again experience death, sorrow, pain, suffering, or sin...

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel and **with the trumpet of God**, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**.

Revelation 21:4

and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**; and there will **no longer be [any] death**; there will **no longer be [any] mourning, or crying, or pain**; the **first things have passed away**."

Those who alive at the second coming of Jesus will miraculously be changed as well. The living saints will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from mortality to immortality. The living saints will miraculously have their bodies changed from mortal corruptible flesh and be clothed with their eternal incorruptible, immortal bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

51 ¶ **Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,**

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- 52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet;** for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**
- 53 For this **perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**
- 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "**DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**"
- 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
- 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;
- 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

## Feast of Tabernacles (Booths)

The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles is the harvest celebration. It is marked by a seven day festival and two Sabbaths, one the first day of the feast and the other on the eighth day, the day after the feast, the Last Great Day.

Leviticus 23:34-36

- 34 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the **Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD.**
- 35 'On the **first day is a holy convocation;** you shall do no laborious work of any kind.
- 36 'For **seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.** On the **eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD;** it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.

It is called the Feast of Booths because the children of Israel were to reside in temporary dwellings called a succah made of branches and leaves.

Leviticus 23:42-43

- 42 '**You shall live in booths for seven days;** all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths,
- 43 so that your generations may know that **I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt.** I am the LORD your God.'"

Some believe the symbolism of the temporary dwelling to represent the in-gathering of all the nations for the 1,000 year millennial reign of Christ upon the earth. Others feel this may represent our temporary fleshly lives, temporal life in anticipation of our eternal home (bodies) when we will forever be with the Lord. Jesus rewards the saved with new

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eternal bodies as represented by the Last Great Day of the Feast, Judgment Day. There are Scriptures to validate both interpretations, but that is a study for another time.

Let's move to the final Feast day, the Day of Atonement. The Feast day listings are not in sequence for I chose to end with the Day of Atonement for this study on Atonement. The events of this Holy Feast Day will receive a bit more in-depth treatment than the others.

### Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement pictures the work of Jesus Christ as the High Priest of God, atoning for the sins of man and restoring a right relationship with God. This Feast day is a High Sabbath and should be compared and contrasted with Passover. The Passover shows Jesus as our Sacrificial Lamb, slain before the foundation of the earth, the Lamb of God. Atonement shows Jesus as our Great High Priest, making intercession before our Holy and Righteous God ... Atoning for the sins of the people of God. Jesus is pictured as the vicarious sacrifice in the Feast of Passover; and as the Eternal High Priest in the Feast of Atonement.

Leviticus 16:29

29 ¶ "This shall be a **permanent statute for you**: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **humble your souls and not do any work**, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you;

To "humble your souls" means to fast, refrain from the consumption of food and water for a 24 hour period. This is the only commanded day of fasting by God and is done to represent the solemnity of this event before our holy God.

Leviticus 16:30

For it is on this day that **atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.**

As we continue to explore the events and the symbols associated with the Day of Atonement we will see that it is by the *blood* of the sacrifice presented to God by the high priest that makes propitiation before our *Holy and Just* God. The justice of God demands that payment for sin ... crimes against God ... be made.

Leviticus 16:31-32

31 "It is to be a **Sabbath of solemn rest** for you, that you may **humble your souls**; it is a **permanent statute**.

32 "So **the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest** in his father's place **shall make atonement**: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

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The Atonement before God must be made by His anointed and ordained high priest. We see the anointing and ordination of Messiah Jesus by God in the New Testament account as recorded in the synoptic gospels.

Matthew 3:13-17

- 13 ¶ Then **Jesus** \*arrived from Galilee at the Jordan **coming to John, to be baptized** by him.
- 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"
- 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way **it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he \*permitted Him..
- 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,**
- 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.**"

Though many teach that this baptism of Jesus is the model for Christian baptism, it is not. The baptism of Jesus is no more a model for Christian baptism than is the baptism of John. Both had a specific and singular purpose to achieve in the plan of God.

The baptism of Jesus is the anointing and consecration of Jesus as Messiah ... in His office as King, High Priest, and Prophet. This is a unique baptism for Jesus in his *anointing* (verse 16) by the Holy Spirit alighting on Jesus, God the Father's *ordination* of Jesus as Messiah in verse 17 and the *ceremonial washing* or baptism of all priests of God. For a more detailed description of this event, please see the topical study, *Baptism*, located in the Lord's Children Fellowship website.  
[http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible\\_study/topical.htm](http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/topical.htm)

The role of the Levitical high priest on the Day of Atonement was varied. The work of the Old Covenant high priest on the Day of Atonement pointed to the New Covenant work of Jesus, our Eternal High Priest.

Leviticus 16:33-34

- 33 and make **atonement for the holy sanctuary**, and he shall make **atonement for the tent of meeting** and for the **altar**. He shall also make **atonement for the priests** and for **all the people of the assembly**.
- 34 "Now you shall have this as a **permanent statute**, to make **atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year.**" And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, so he did.

The high priest atoned for: the holy sanctuary, the holy of holies; the priests; and all the people of the congregation. Jesus accomplishes all that and more by His perfect and sinless life. We will see how the old material sanctuary is replaced by the new living sanctuary ... the body of Jesus; the new alter is the Cross of Christ; and the tent of meeting is now the living tabernacle of those with an in-dwelling of God's Holy Spirit.

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We, those who are in-Christ, are the living temples of God. He now resides in men through the in-dwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

Let's review the sacrifices and ceremonies associated with the high priest on the Day of Atonement as recorded in the book of Leviticus 16:1-32.

Leviticus 16:1-2

- 1 ¶ Now the LORD spoke to Moses **after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died.**
- 2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that **he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.**

So sacred is the most holy place that the high priest could only enter the sanctuary once per year under penalty of death for any violation. The two sons of Aaron violated this sacred ordinance and forfeited their lives for it. The Holy of Holies is where the Arc of the Covenant that held the tablets Moses brought down from Mount Sinai was kept. The LORD appeared above the Arc between the two cherubim in the form of a cloud over the mercy seat. The cherubim symbolized heaven above which God was looking down among His people.

The Mercy Seat is the lid or covering upon the Arc. In the book of Hebrews, the Greek word *ἱλαστήριον* *hilasterion* (*hil-as-tay'-ree-on*) is translated as mercy seat...

Hebrews 9:5

and above it *were* the cherubim of glory overshadowing the **mercy seat** <ἱλαστήριον **hilasterion**>; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

In the book of Romans the same word *hilasterion* is translated as propitiation.

Romans 3:25

whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** <ἱλαστήριον **hilasterion**> in **His blood through faith**. *This was* to demonstrate His **righteousness**, because in the **forbearance** of God **He passed over the sins** previously committed;

The term *hilasterion* relates to an appeasing or expiating force, a means of appeasing or propitiating God. Propitiation is the atoning victim. The *hilasterion* or mercy seat was used as the cover or lid upon the ark of the covenant located in the Holy of Holies and was sprinkled with the blood of the expiatory victim on the annual Day of Atonement. The sacrifices were offered to God, to appease God. Jesus is the expiatory sacrifice to God, a propitiation for the sins of man that appeases our most Holy God's requirement for justice.

Jesus is the literal meaning of the Mercy Seat for He sat upon the *hilasterion*, the lid and covering for the Arc of the Covenant. This is pointing to Jesus in two ways. First, just

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like the hilasterion is the lid upon the Arc of the Covenant of God which held the broken laws of God, Jesus is the lid or covering ... the closure upon the broken Laws of the Old Covenant as the means or administration of God's Law. Put another way, Jesus is the cap or lid upon the administration of Mosaic Law.

The Old Covenant Mercy Seat (God's Saving Grace) is attached to the hilasterion (propitiation) and is one solid piece made of pure gold. Jesus is the Mercy Seat that appeases and satisfies God's Justice for sin. Jesus is satisfactory payment for crimes against God (sin) that man committed against our Holy and Just God.

When God looks down upon man, as symbolized by the cloud above the Mercy Seat, God does not see the His broken laws contained within the Arc, but looks upon Jesus, our Seat of Mercy upon which God says, "I am satisfied." The vicarious sacrifice of Jesus is satisfactory payment to appease the demand for justice for crimes (sin) against our Holy God. It is only through Jesus - our propitiation, that saving grace is imparted to man.

As we continue with the verses in Leviticus 16, we see there are TWO goats that represent ONE sacrifice to the Lord.

Leviticus 16:8-10

- 8 "Aaron shall **cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.**
- 9 "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the **lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering.**
- 10 "But the goat on which the lot for the **scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD**, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

The Hebrew עֲזָאֵזֶל 'aza'zel (*az-aw-zale'*) is the word translated as scapegoat is most bibles. I'm not sure scapegoat is the best translation giving the current meaning of the word in Western culture. The intent of Scripture strongly implies that the goat upon which the sins fall is to be set free ... the *escape* goat ... the *forgiven* goat ... and implies that the sacrificial goat upon whose blood is to be taken to the Holy of Holies satisfies God for the penalty of sin thus granting the azazel goat (the escape goat) utter removal from death as symbolized by his being set free into the wilderness ... forgiveness. It appears to represent freedom ... the utter removal of sin by God due to the perfect expiatory sacrifice of Jesus.

The casting of lots seems to indicate that the sacrifice of Christ as the sacrificial atonement was pre-determined, predestined by God before Creation. Concurrently, it also signifies that the goat of the sin offering that is set free has also been pre-determined, predestined by God. Before Creation, God knew there needed to be a propitiatory sacrifice of Himself to atone for the sins of man. It was pre-determined that the sacrifice of Christ would be required for the payment of sin, thereby granting redemption for the guilty sinning party.

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Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**.

Though many godly men have slightly differing views on the symbolism of the two goats, the above symbolism seems to be more consistent with the focus of the Day of Atonement ... a reconciliation and restoration to God.

Leviticus 16:15

¶ "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and **bring its blood inside the veil** and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and **sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat**.

The blood represents the soul, the essence of life that was scattered upon the Mercy Seat and altar. Under the Old Covenant, Aaron had to first make atonement for himself for only a perfect and clean high priest is able to intercede on behalf of others. This is an anti-type for Jesus, our sinless and perfect Eternal High Priest.

Leviticus 16:11

"Then Aaron shall offer the **bull of the sin offering which is for himself** and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

Other symbols are also present ... incense to represent the prayers that rise up to the throne of God. God sees the prayers of His saints as a sweet smelling aroma.

Leviticus 16:12-13

12 "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of **finely ground sweet incense**, and bring [it] inside the veil.

13 "He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the **cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on [the ark of] the testimony, otherwise he will die**.

All in all the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on four separate occasions on the Day of Atonement. A fifth entry would mean sure death. The work of the high priest has to be absolutely perfect or suffer death for any mistake. This is to represent to perfection of Jesus our Eternal High Priest. This chapter in Leviticus which covers the ordinances and ceremonies for the Day of Atonement began with the death of the two sons of Aaron. God is most serious about His commands to His high priests.

## New Covenant Teaching

We see how the Old Covenant prophetically oriented God's people Israel to the coming person and work of their Messiah Jesus. The Old Covenant is the shadow, the early

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signs that point to the coming Messiah ... the New Covenant is the substance; God with man, with Jesus being the substance.

Colossians 2:16-17

- 16 ¶ Therefore no one is to act as your judge **in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—**
- 17 things which are a **mere shadow of what is to come**; but the **substance belongs to Christ.**

Here in two verses of Scripture is the main reason that Old Covenant patterns of worship, which include observances of all the Sabbaths we just completed, as well as Mosaic Law observances, are not to be integrated into New Covenant worship. The entirety of the book of Galatians and Hebrews are also quite emphatic that **the shadow of what was to come no longer has a place once the substance has come.** To continue to invoke Old Covenant forms of worship under the New Covenant is in essence denying that Messiah has come, that those who continue to observe the shadow deny the presence of the substance. There are many congregations, denominations and cults that try to impose Old Covenant forms of worship under New Covenant grace, like Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Armstrongism and several others not mentioned. The three groups mentioned above are all theological cults. Messianic congregations, though typically not cultic, impose and integrate Old Covenant legalism (Feast Day observances) into New Covenant forms of worship in spite of the biblical commands that *forbid* such practices. The Messianic congregations of today engage in much of the same practices that the Judaizers of Galatia did.

Exodus 4:26

So He let him alone. At that time she said, "**[You are] a bridegroom of blood—because of the circumcision.**"

Galatians 2:12

For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he [began] to withdraw and hold himself aloof, **fearing the party of the circumcision.**

Ephesians 2:11

¶ Therefore remember that formerly **you, the Gentiles** in the flesh, who are **called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision,"** [which is] performed in the flesh by human hands—

Under the Old Covenant, circumcision was the sign that you were one of God's people. That was the acceptance of the Old Covenant promise made in blood. The struggle of the early New Covenant Jews accepting Jesus as their Messiah is understandable. That's why there is some much teaching on the subject in the New Covenant writings.

Galatians 5:2

Behold I, Paul, say to you that **if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.**

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The Apostle Paul is not merely forbidding the act of circumcision as the sign of the Covenant, but is rejecting the observances of the entirety of the Mosaic system of worship. It is not to be practiced by those under the New Covenant of the Holy Spirit. Circumcision is no longer of the flesh, but of the heart by the Holy Spirit of promise.

Romans 2:29

But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Colossians 2:11

and in Him you were also **circumcised with a circumcision made without hands**, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the **circumcision of Christ**;

Verse 16 of Galatians, is often twisted by those trying to impose the practice of Feast day observances by **reversing** the meaning of the passage. Paul planted the Galatian churches. He is teaching them not to be troubled by the Judaizers that are trying to judge them for not keeping the Old Covenant days and the Mosaic Law, including circumcision, which was the sign of the Covenant between God and Israel.

Colossians 2:16-17

18 ¶ Therefore no one is to act as your judge **in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—**

19 things which are a **mere shadow of what is to come**; but the **substance belongs to Christ**.

Those following Mosaic Law, Old Covenant Feast days, regulations, ordinances and sacrifices are often referred to as "those of the circumcision." That is a phrase use to represent the entirety of the Old Covenant system of worship.

**Philippians 3:3**

**for we are the [true] circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,**

New Covenant Scripture teaches the saints (born-again believers) the sign of the New Covenant is the Holy Spirit that indwells true believers and followers of God. All such practices of invoking Old Covenant patterns of worship are to be avoided by bible believing Christians under the New Covenant of the Spirit. The act of holding worship services on the appointed days is a keeping of the days. God gives strict command through the Apostle Paul not to engage in such practices.

Galatians 1:6-9

6 ¶ I am amazed that you are so quickly **deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ**, for a **different gospel**;

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- 7 **which is really not another**; only there are **some who are disturbing you** and want to **distort the gospel of Christ**.
- 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a **gospel contrary** to what we have preached to you, **he is <anathema>to be accursed!**
- 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a **gospel contrary** to what you received, **he is to be accursed!**

The different gospel is that of integrating patterns of worship under the Old Covenant Law with the New Covenant of Spirit. The Greek word God inspired Paul to use that is translated by the NASB95 as accursed is *αναθεμα* *anathema* (*an-ath'-em-ah*). *Anathema* means eternal condemnation, a thing devoted to God without hope of being redeemed. Upon examination of the book of Galatians, we see it to mean Judaizers, called *people of the circumcision*, whose purpose is to institute or integrate Mosaic Law observances into the New Covenant of Spirit.

Galatians 2: 4,14

- 4 But [it was] because of the **false brethren** secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to **spy out our liberty** which we have in **Christ Jesus**, in order **to bring us into bondage**.
- 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, **how [is it that] you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?**

The Judaizers of the early church are similar to the Messianic's of today. Do not heed such teachings.

Titus 1:10

For there are many *rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,*

History has proven that whenever a discussion of Old Covenant Festivals and Sabbaths are taught, a section on why they are not to be kept or observed must accompany the teaching. Let's now return to our study on Atonement.

## Essentials of Atonement

As stated in the Introduction, there are many essential concepts and teachings one needs to understand concerning the fullness and richness of the Atoning Work of Christ. The areas we will discuss in this section is Propitiation, Reconciliation, Redemption, Regeneration, Sanctification, Vicarious and Sacrificial Death of Jesus, the meaning of the Cross of Messiah and why blood *had* to be shed, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus as the firstfruit of the believers resurrection to eternal life. All these elements are critical to understand the Atonement. In addition we will also discuss the importance and

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significance of having a correct understanding of the Nature of God and the nature and condition of Man. An improper understanding of either of these two critical areas will taint our understanding of the magnitude of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus in our stead. We shall also see fullness and vital role of the Triune God in Atonement. A rejection of the Triune nature of God is a rejection of God and His Atoning work.

### The Nature of God in Relation to Atonement

The doctrine of the Triune nature of God, the three-in-one, is crucial to Christianity. It is a grievous state of affairs we live in today to see the growing number of cultic influences that deny the Trinity, yet claim Christianity. They are mutually exclusive. **To deny the Triune God is to deny Christianity for the second person of the Triune God is Jesus.** It was Jesus on the Cross who made atonement for man. **It was God on the cross and it was man on the cross.** Such is the uniqueness of Messiah. Jesus had to be fully God and fully man else the sacrifice and atoning work is of no avail to any of us. If Jesus was not God and man then the best that His sacrifice was able to do was save Him alone. Jesus had to be 100% God and 100% man for His work of Atonement in restoring man to God to be of any benefit to all of mankind. If Jesus is anything less than the full God-man, then humanity remains in sin ... there is no Salvation ... there is no Atonement.

The Triune God is infinitely Holy and infinitely Just. The Holiness of God and the Justice of God *combined together* is the love of God. Love includes justice, for without justice there can be no Godly love. Without justice there is anarchy and our holy God is not an anarchist. God's Love demands Justice, for without justice there is no true love.

Romans 12:9

[Let] **love [be] without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil;** cling to what is good.

As we progress through our study on the various essential elements of the Atonement, we will see clearly that the atoning work of Jesus, the second person of the Triune, is also the work of the Father, the first person of the Triune God and also the work of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Triune God. All three are intimately connected in Atonement and reconciliation of man to God.

### The Nature of Man

We will briefly summarize the Christian view on the nature of man and why man is in desperate need of Atonement and Salvation by the Messiah Jesus, the God-man. Man is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God. Nothing else in Creation can rightly claim they represent God's image and likeness. Humanity did not originate through some chance process of evolution but through the conscious, purposeful act and will of God.

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The image of God is intrinsic and indispensable to humanity. The understanding of the full meaning of intrinsic and indispensable will be further developed in another study. For now, suffice to say that man, and man alone has the capacity of coming into a conscious and personal relationship with God, our Supreme Being. We are capable of responding to God, and of knowing God in a way and manner apart from all else in the created realm. We are capable of understanding what God desires of us, for He reveals His desire for us through His Word, the bible. The Holy Spirit of God enables believers to understand spiritual matters and how they impact our lives. God grants man the capacity to love, worship and obey God, aspects of the human condition that most completely fulfill God's intention for creating humanity.

Though all humans are created as finite beings, there is an eternal dimension present in humanity. We are created and have a definite beginning, but also an eternal future. To regard humanity as exclusive temporal beings means humanity is wholly inadequate to understand its very nature and purpose. While our temporal component is commonly understood, it's the spiritual dimension in humanity that offers the greatest potential and the ultimate purpose for our creation.

Man will never discover himself, never achieve happiness, true enjoyment, or actualize his potential unless and until he pays as much attention to his spiritual dynamic as revealed by our Creator God. We cannot find fulfillment as long as we focus upon our temporal happiness as the highest value in life. Until we invest substantial portions of our being in fulfilling our relationship with our Supreme Maker, we will always fall short in achieving that which we most desire ... true fulfillment, joy and peace.

Sin ... the nature of sin, the magnitude of sin in its offense to God, and the magnitude of sin in its corruption of man cannot be underscored enough. All humanity is totally corrupted by sin, for man has inherited a sin nature. Both Old and New Covenants speak frequently about sin. The Hebrew terms for sin are varied, but the most common form refers to deliberate erring. The Hebrew תעה ta'ah (*taw-aw'*) literally means to wander and go astray, to stagger as one drunk. The New Covenant use of the terms for sin is identical, αμαρτια hamartia (*ham-ar-tee'-ah*) which means to miss the mark, to err, wander or stray. This wandering and error is an offense to God. The implications is one who willfully allows themselves to be deceived and led astray, for such deceptions satisfy the carnal nature. Those who fall into error know or ought to know that they are being led astray.

Mark 13:23

"But **take heed**; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

1 Corinthians 10:12

**Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.**

Galatians 6:7

**Do not be deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

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Both Old and New Covenants recognize various errors as sin. Although there are clearly innocent errors, those committed in ignorance, all sin is an offense to God. However, in most cases, the errors are deliberate and due to a rebellious type of wrongdoing. Regardless, there is always some form of penalty associated with sin for the individual committing the sin is responsible for sin and accountable to God for their sin.

Both Covenants also describe sin as *Inattention* where one is commanded to be attentive; *Missing the Mark* that God has established; *Irreverence* toward God when all know or should know that reverence is due; *Unrighteousness*, *Unholiness* and *Denial* of one's duty to God; *Transgression*, that is crossing over the line that God has established that we are not to cross over, overstepping our bounds; *Inequity* and a *lack of Integrity*; *Rebellion* toward God and *Disobedience* to His Ways and His Commands; *Treachery*, a breach of Trust God grants to man, and man's *Falling Away* from that trust; *Perversion*, which means to *bend or twist or to bow down*. This is used metaphorically to mean how man treats the Word of God and man's propensity toward idolatry and the worshipping of false gods, or placing anyone or anything as more important than God; *Abomination* is God's attitude or revulsion toward certain sin, especially those of *idolatry*, *murder*, *homosexuality*, *fornication*, *cross dressing*, *sorcery* and *witchcraft* to name a few; The *Displacement of God ...* sin is essentially displaces God as Lord over all Creation, including God as Lord over man. Unbelief that God is who He says He is ... LORD ... is the root cause of sin. Not seeing God as God will lead people to live their lives according to their own ways in accordance to self and that is sin. Some theological constructs, dispensationalism for one, teaches obedience to God as antithetical to Saving Grace. Such teaching is sin and an *abomination* to God.

## Propitiation

Propitiation is not a word or term used much, if at all, in conversational English. In fact, it is not even well discussed or taught much in the churches anymore. So what is propitiation? In the context of Atonement **it is the act of turning aside the Wrath of God by providing God an appeasement that satisfies His Need for Justice and to Punish Sin.** We briefly covered sin in our discussion on the nature of man. There never seems to be enough treatment of the subject of sin for humans to gain a fuller understanding of just how great sin is to our holy and righteous God. Sin is a crime against God. Crimes deserve and need to be punished appropriately for justice to be served.

What people don't seem to understand and all but the best churches are so reluctant to teach is this: **God's wrath is the biggest problem facing humanity.** All humanity is subject and under God's wrath due to sin. Unless there is a provision to appease or turn away God's wrath, all humanity is lost. There is no hope for humans on the business end of the wrath of God. God's wrath is **not** like the capricious anger of the pagan gods of ancient religions and the deities of many of the world's religions. It is however a true

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wrath against sin and it is this TRUE and PROPER WRATH against sin that humanity should and must be concerned about. **God's Wrath is not some small and insignificant element alongside His far more significant and overwhelming love. God's Wrath and God's Love are co-equal elements in frequency and intensity.** The bible, from Genesis to Revelation speaks of God's wrath against sin as strongly as it does about God's love and provision for appeasing His wrath for sin. **The liability created by God's Wrath defines the provisions for God's grace upon sinful man.** That provision is in the form of the propitiatory and vicarious sacrifice in the person of Jesus, the lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world.

Although propitiation means turning the wrath of God aside, in the biblical framework **it was never a case of mere human beings appeasing the Divine Wrath of God ... but rather God Himself satisfying His wrath against sin through the death of His own Son, Jesus.** It is God Himself who, out of His great love for sinful humanity that provides the **ONLY WAY** by which His wrath against sin MAY BE AVERTED.

In Jesus, God placated His own wrath against sin so that His Love may go out to save sinners. God instituted a sacrificial system under the Old Covenant to point us to the Messiah's sacrifice as the holy, perfect and spotless Lamb of God who would appease God's need for Justice and Punishment of sin as a *substitute* for man's guilt of sin. **It is significant to note that the sacrifices under the Mosaic system are not recognized as human works but as Divine Gifts.** It is always God who made provisions for the sacrifices.

Leviticus 17:11

'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and **I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement** for your souls; **for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.**'

Sinful man must diligently work and strive to see the magnitude and offensiveness of sin to our holy and righteous God. Our sin nature makes this difficult to understand. Our lack of understanding manifests with comments like, "that seems very harsh," or those who feign Christianity with comments like, "the death penalty for murder is cruel, inhuman and violates God's law of love." Judgment stands squarely upon the shoulders of the so-called shepherds of God for not teaching the truth of God.

**Genesis 9:6**

**"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.**

We covered how the Mercy Seat of the Arc of the Covenant represents the propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God (Passover) and as our Eternal High Priest (Day of Atonement) before God. The blood of the lamb scattered upon the alter on the Day of Atonement points to the blood of Jesus shed upon the cross before the throne of God in the Holy of Holies. The symbolism is too overwhelming to be ignored. God looks down between the outstretched wings of the cherubim above the Arc of the Covenant, above

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the propitiation, the seal or lid upon the Old Covenant Laws upon which the Mercy Seat is attached, and does not see the broken Laws of God in the Arc, but instead sees the blood of Jesus - the innocent victim as payment and satisfaction to God. Propitiation for sin has been made. God's love now goes out to save those who by faith accept the propitiation of Jesus for themselves. This is the one and only provision made by God that will save you from His Wrath.

Acts 4:12

"And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

The New Testament story of the tax collector also speaks to those who are removed from under the wrath of God by God Himself and not because of any righteous deeds of man.

Luke 18:9

¶ And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

The prayer of the righteous man is the prayer answered by God for the removal of that man from His own wrath.

Luke 18:13

"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be **merciful (hilaskomai)** to me, the sinner!'

The Greek word *ἱλασκομαι* *hilaskomai* (*hil-as'-kom-ahee*) is the exact word translated as propitiation in other texts and can be rendered as "God, be Mercy Seated to me, a sinner." The man is asking that the propitiation of the blood of the Messiah to come be accepted as appeasement, as expiation or propitiation for him a sinner. Those who do not come to Jesus as Lord, remain on the business end of God's Wrath.

## Reconciliation

Jesus the Messiah is the ONE and ONLY *intercessor* between God and man. Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus is not intercessor ... the angels of heaven are not intercessors ... nor are any of the saints intercessors. A saint is anyone, Old Testament or New, who is saved by grace through the atoning work of Jesus the Christ. Praying to a saint accomplishes nothing more than convicting the person doing the praying of the sin of *idolatry*. The Atoning work of Jesus is applied back to humanity going to the first created human, Adam and forward to the last human to be born, whenever and whomever that may be. The fullness of the Atonement encompasses all humanity, regardless of when they have lived.

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Paul in his discourse to the church at Rome writes that Abraham, the father of the faithful is saved by grace through faith, the same as we, in the sacrificial atoning work of Jesus. I will focus on the particular concept in verse 22 of chapter 4 of how the reconciling work of Jesus is applied back in time.

Romans 4:22

Therefore IT WAS ALSO **CREDITED** TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The Greek word translated as credited in the verse above is λογίζομαι *logizomai* (*log-id'-zom-ah-ee*) which means to reconcile accounts. This word deals with reality. If I "logizomai" or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. If I think otherwise I am deceiving myself. This word refers to facts not suppositions. It's an accounting term that is also used to mean moving an item on a balance sheet from one place to another. In this case the implication is moving an item from the liability column to the asset column. In spiritual terms it is referring to the Reconciliation of man to God through the death of Jesus at Calvary. **God is removing an individual from the Wrath of God column to the Grace of God column due to the atoning and vicarious sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary.**

We are reconciled to God by and through the death of Jesus Christ at the cross of Calvary. The sacrificial death of Jesus brought an end to the enmity and separation between God and humanity. Reconciliation is wholly the work of God. It is God's act of receiving the world into His favor and of dealing specifically with them. As important as it is for humans to turn to God (repentance) reconciliation is God's turning in favor toward humanity through the atoning work of Himself in Jesus at Calvary. This is where the Divine nature of Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Triune God who became flesh ... becomes essential. It is essential for Atonement and reconciliation that Jesus be fully human and fully God. Jesus had to be the God-man for reconciliation to be applicable to humanity. If Jesus was only God and not man, the sacrifice would be of little avail to restore humanity for humanity would not have been represented at the cross. If Jesus was only human and not God, his perfect life would only be useful to save him, but would have no impact or benefit transferred to saving humanity. It is therefore only through the atoning work of God and man in the person of Jesus that *healed* the breach between God and man.

The Old Covenant passages speak clearly to the healing of the breach between God and man through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5

- 4 Surely **our griefs He Himself bore**, And **our sorrows He carried**; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.
- 5 But **He was pierced through for our transgressions**, **He was crushed for our iniquities**; The **chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him**, And **by His scourging we are healed**.

The New Covenant does so as well.

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1 Peter 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by **His wounds you were healed.**

The King James renders the Greek word  $\mu\omega\lambda\omega\psi$  molops (*mo'-lopes*) as stripes which means a bruise, wale, and a wound that trickles with blood. **The healing that occurs at Calvary is the healing of the breach between God and man.** It is highly unfortunate to see groups such as the Word Faith cult pervert this to justify their deceptive ministry of physical healing and *man's right to claim healing* as a "little god" if he possesses the god kind of faith for healing. That abomination cheapens the magnitude of the sacrifice of Jesus by perverting it to a fleece the flock ministry of charlatans and heretics.

### Sacrifice

We have already mentioned in several locations how the death of Jesus is a sacrifice to God to atone for the sin of humanity; and to appease the Justice of God in punishing sin. The Old Covenant sacrificial system points to the work of Messiah as a sacrificial work that God will accept as satisfaction for Justice. Chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah clearly speaks to this.

Isaiah 53:10-11

- 10 ¶ But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting [Him] to grief; If **He would render Himself [as] a guilt offering**, He will see [His] offspring, He will prolong [His] days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.
- 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see [it and] be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As **He will bear their iniquities.**

This is also reinforced in the new Covenant book of Hebrews, chapter 9 verses 6 through 15. The connection between the sacrifice of Messiah Jesus as our sacrificial Lamb of God and also as our Eternal High Priest who enters the Holy of Holies to offer the blood of God, Jesus the Messiah, as the sacrifice to God once for all time.

Hebrews 9:11-12, 14

- 11 But when **Christ appeared [as] a high priest** of the good things to come, [He entered] through the greater and more **perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;
- 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, **but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.
- 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who **through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God**, cleanse *your* conscience from dead works *to serve the living God?*

We see the immense sacrifice of Jesus to God on our behalf. We will talk of the vicarious aspect of the sacrifice next. Before we do, I also want to point out a significant

## Atonement

issue concerning the so-called "**Lordship Controversy**" the natural result of apostate dispensational theology. Notice in verse 14, the Christian duty of one who is graciously saved and reconciled to God is the result of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. **We are to serve the living God.** We are to move away from the pattern of worship established under the Old Covenant system and to serve God as a new creation, in the newness of life and with a cleansed conscience. The life of the Christian saved by grace through faith in the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus is to be one of **Obedience**. We show our love for God by obeying God and the commandments of Jesus.

John 14:31a

but so that the world **may know that I love** the Father, **I do exactly** as the Father **commanded** Me...

**Jesus associates love with obedience.** Love is **not** how one *feels* about the one they love, but what one *does in response* to the one they love. More on that in another study.

### Vicarious

The vicarious death of Jesus means that our Lord *died in our place*. Let's examine the Scriptures that attest to the fact that Messiah Jesus did indeed take our place. We shall start with the myriad of Scriptures that use the phrases, "bore" our iniquity and our sins were "laid upon" Christ and He "became sin" for us.

Genesis 22:9

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

This is a type for the sacrifice God would do The Son, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Triune. Though God did not demand performance from Abraham and Isaac, He did indeed demand performance from Himself and Jesus.

Isaiah 53:6

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us have turned to his own way; But the **LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because **He poured out Himself to death**, And was **numbered with the transgressors**; Yet **He Himself bore the sin of many**, And **interceded for the transgressors.**

1 Peter 2:24

and **He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross**, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

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2 Corinthians 5:21

**He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

It is this verse in 2 Corinthians that deserves some attention. The Word Faith teachers have greatly twisted and perverted this verse to mean that Jesus needed to be born again in hell for our salvation, redemption and atonement. Their treatment of this Scripture, as many others, is nothing short of *Heresy*. They make no distinction between the innocent and sinless Jesus *bearing our sins* from those who *commit* sin. They wrongly and maliciously twist this verse to mean that Jesus had to go to hell as a sinner and be born again in hell. This is a shameless perversion of the Word of God.

**JESUS NEVER WENT TO HELL ...** He went to **Paradise** after His death on the cross.

The very words of Jesus to the thief on the cross prove where He went.

Luke 23:43

And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be **with Me in Paradise.**"

For the full exegesis on where Jesus went for the three days and three nights between His death and resurrection, see the study entitled, "Did Jesus Go to Hell?" at The Lord's Children Fellowship Topical Studies section of the website.

<http://www.thelordschildren.org/jchell.htm>

Now, back to our study on the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus.

Galatians 3:13

**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us**—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ also, having been **offered once to bear the sins of many**, will appear a second time for salvation without [reference to] sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

The prevailing theme in all the above Scriptures is Jesus bore our sins to free us from the penalty of sin ... eternal death, which is eternal separation from God. By Jesus bearing our sins upon Him, our sins and its penalty were transferred from us to Him. In other words, the sinfulness of man is imputed to Jesus as He suffered in our stead on the cross, and the righteousness of Jesus as He suffered in our stead is imputed to believers. Because Messiah has willingly chosen to become sin for us, we are freed from the bondage of sin and are now in bondage to righteousness.

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone [as] **slaves for**

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**obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?**

Romans 6:18

and having been freed from sin, **you became slaves of righteousness.**

So where does the idea of Free Moral Agency come from? I read in Scripture, we are either slaves to sin and Satan or slaves to God and righteousness. It seems the only choice we have is to who we will be in bondage to ... that's hardly what I'd call free will.

The Greek language itself also points to the relationship between the works of Messiah and ourselves. The Greek preposition *αντι* (*an-tee*) has the clear meaning of instead of, in place of something.

Matthew 20:28 and Mark: 10:45

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom for many.**"

This is another verse perverted by the Word Faith cult. They try to proclaim that Satan, as god of this world, has full authority over the earth and that God the Father needed to pay Satan a ransom to redeem mankind. This view is equally heretical as the earlier views and most teachings of this dangerous cult. The Word Faith cult is in fact twisting the entire meaning of Atonement in an attempt to justify and support their fleece the flock ministry of faith healing.

The ransom for many is to God the Father for proper execution of Justice for *Crimes Against God* ... sin. This verse speaks to the substitutionary death of Jesus as *payment to the Father* for the sins of humanity.

The second Greek preposition to consider in support of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus is *υπερ* (*hoo-er*) which means in behalf of, for the sake of. One who acts on behalf of or for the sake of often appears for him.

2 Corinthians 5:15

and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

John 11:50-51

50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."

51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation,

The aspect of substitution is widely disputed by some theologians, philosophers, cultists and non-believers. The Scriptures are clear in the specific acknowledgment that Jesus is our vicarious sacrifice. In fact, the very notion of a sacrifice, as used in Scripture,

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point to the concept of substitution. Goats, bulls, rams and lambs were used in the Old Covenant as substitute sacrifices for sins that point to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus as our substitute in the new Covenant. No sacrifice can be rightly understood without the notion of substitution. Jesus the Messiah died as our sacrifice ... He died as our substitute.

### Fruits of Atonement

We see the essential element of Atonement is the *Sacrifice* of Jesus as a *Substitution* for the penalty of death upon man for sin. This *Vicarious Sacrifice* is *Propitiation* to God the Just and thereby *Reconciled* the severed relationship of man with God. Humanity, left to its own devices is incapable of coming into a right relationship with God apart from God's Divine Intervention in the form of Atonement. God is, in essence, saving mankind from Himself, from His wrath upon sin.

The fruits of the atoning work of God on behalf of sinful man include *Justification*, *Redemption*, *Salvation* and *Sanctification*. All these are aspects of Salvation. Salvation is another major study in and of itself. Therefore, we will not treat the subject of Salvation in-depth in this study but briefly touch on the major points as it relates to the Atonement.

### Justification

Earlier in the study we spoke of the *guilt* and *liability* of man for sin, namely, death. The Wrath of God is punishment for sin and the punishment is death ... Physical death: the separation of the spirit from the body; Spiritual death: the separation of the carnal mind from the spiritual truths of God; and Eternal death: the separation of man from God for all eternity. All mankind is subject to the Wrath of God and judgment for sin. As a result of the Atoning work of God on behalf of man, man is now *Justified* before God.

Justification is the work of God pronouncing sinners righteous in His sight. We are forgiven due to the Atoning work of Jesus at Calvary and declared to have fulfilled all that God's Law requires of us through Jesus. Justification is a restoration of man to the biblical state of *Righteousness*.

Under the Old Covenant, righteousness had to do with a person's conformity to God's norm and His Laws. It frequently is used in the context of a person being declared by a judge to be free from guilt. The role of a judge is to condemn the guilty and to acquit the innocent. This concept of justification is further advanced in the New Covenant as well. Justice demands that the guilty party be condemned. Any judge who acquits the guilty is acting unrighteously himself and is himself guilty of perverting justice.

Herein lays the argument of many against the atoning work of Jesus on behalf of man. They claim for this to be so, God himself is guilty of perverting His own justice by allowing the guilty party -man- to go free. The folly of this argument has been

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demonstrated in the prior discussion of the essential elements of atonement. This is also refuted in Scripture.

Romans 3:21

But now **apart from the Law** [the] *righteousness* of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

The New Covenant clearly teaches that Justification of man is due completely to the **sufficiency of Christ's atoning death**. God declares man justified in His sight due to the work of God -Jesus- and not due to the work of man.

Romans 3:28

For we maintain that a man is **justified** by *faith apart from works of the Law*.

The act of imputing the righteousness of Jesus to the believer is not the act of infusing holiness into the believer. It is the act of declaring a person righteous much like a judge does in acquitting the accused. This declaration does not alter the spiritual condition of the one acquitted but only frees them from the penalty associated with conviction of guilt. In the spiritual sense, the altering of the person's nature occurs through regeneration, the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, after one repents from sin and accepts Jesus as their Lord for Salvation.

God (Judge) declares man (guilty party) is righteous (acquitted) by imputing (transferring) the righteousness of Jesus (innocent party) to man (guilty party) through faith (acting upon belief).

## Redemption

In the Old Covenant, the Messiah was looked to as the redeemer of Israel. The Hebrew words translated as redeem have often been translated as ransom as well. There were redemption rights under Mosaic Law concerning sold land, property, and people sold into slavery. We will see redemption sacrifices associated with the offering of gifts to the LORD and those pointing to Messiah Jesus as redeemer of man to God. The Law also mandated a Year of Jubilee that guarantees redemption for all whom were unable to redeem due to unfavorable circumstances. Redemption and redemption laws has always been a part of the plan of God.

The Word Faith cult and a few others twist redemption to mean God having to redeem man from Satan. These cults wrongly teach that man is the property of Satan, and that Satan needed to be *compensated* to release man to God. This compensation was in the form of Jesus, who had to go to hell and be tested once again by Satan himself. Only if Jesus remained sinless in hell could man be atoned for. The Word Faith cult falsely teaches that Jesus needed to be born again in hell for the redemption of man. This cult teaches that Atonement and Redemption was *not at the cross* but in hell. This heresy must not go unchallenged. Let's show in Scripture precisely that Redemption is God redeeming man to Himself through Jesus' atoning sacrifice *at the cross*.

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The Hebrew פָּדָה *padah* (*paw-daw*) is used to refer to God redeeming His people Israel out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. The root meaning of the word is to ransom, rescue and deliver.

Deuteronomy 7:8

but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and **redeemed** **<padah>** you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Did God pay Pharaoh a ransom fee for this redemption? Certainly not! In fact, **Pharaoh's land and people were pillaged** by the children of Israel as they were redeemed from the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:35-36

36 Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had **requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing;**

37 and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. **Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**

And later, **when Pharaoh relented from what he did, his life was taken** at the Red sea.

Exodus 14:28

The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even **Pharaoh's entire army** that had gone into the sea after them; **not even one of them remained.**

Let's take another look at how the very same Hebrew word *padah* is also translated as ransom.

Leviticus 27:29

'No one who may have been set apart among men shall be **ransomed**; **<padah>** he shall surely be put to death.

Numbers 3:46

"For the **ransom <padah>** of the 273 of the firstborn of the sons of Israel who are in excess beyond the Levites,

Numbers 3:49

So Moses took the **ransom <paduwy>** money from those who were in excess, beyond those **ransomed <padah>** by the Levites;

Numbers 3:51

Then Moses gave the **ransom <padah>** money to Aaron and to his sons, at the command of the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

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We see that ransom and redeemed may be used interchangeably. It is foolishness to think that the Lord would have to pay a ransom fee to any third party for the redemption of His people then or now. **God ransomed His people to Himself through Jesus for the payment of the penalty of sin.** In essence, the Judge has found man to be guilty of crimes against God -sin- then came down from the bench to pay the penalty himself, thereby redeeming that which is His from having to pay the penalty.

Let's look at other Old Covenant Scriptures that pointed to this future redemptive act of God. The below Scriptures do not speak of deliverance from Egypt and Pharaoh, but of a future deliverance.

Exodus 13:13

"But every first offspring of a donkey you shall **redeem with a lamb**, but if you do not redeem [it,] then you shall break its neck; and **every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.**

Numbers 18:17

**"But the firstborn** of an ox or the firstborn of a sheep or the firstborn of a goat, **you shall not redeem; they are holy.** You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar and shall offer up their fat in smoke [as] an offering by fire, for a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Isaiah 1:27

**Zion will be redeemed with justice** And her repentant ones with **righteousness.**

Isaiah 41:14

"Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you," declares the LORD, "and **your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.**

Isaiah 44:6

**"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.**

Job 19:25

"As for me, I know that **my Redeemer lives,** And at the last **He will take His stand on the earth.**

Job 33:28

**'He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit,** And my life shall see the light.'

Psalms 34:22

The **LORD redeems the soul of His servants,** And **none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

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Psalms 69:18

**Oh draw near to my soul [and] redeem it; Ransom me because of my enemies!**

Psalms 111:9

**He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever;** Holy and awesome is His name.

Psalms 130:8

And **He will redeem Israel** From all his iniquities.

Proverbs 23:11

For their **Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case** against you.

Isaiah 44:23

Shout for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done [it!] Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; **For the LORD has redeemed Jacob And in Israel He shows forth His glory.**

Isaiah 52:3

For thus says the LORD, "**You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money.**"

Isaiah 63:9

**In all their affliction He was afflicted,** And the angel of His presence saved them; **In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them,** And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 54:5

"**For your husband is your Maker,** Whose name is the LORD of hosts; **And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,** Who is called the God of all the earth.

Psalms 74:2

Remember **Your congregation,** which You have purchased of old, Which You have **redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance;** [And] this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.

I find it difficult for some to claim the New Covenant church is nowhere in Scripture. The Old Covenant Scriptures above in Isaiah 54 and Psalms 74 are but two of the many verses where the Old Covenant *church* is referred to as the *congregation* and the *bride* much as we are now. The truth is the New Covenant church is grafted into Israel and is one with Israel.

**Scriptures referring to the Redemption of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Jesus**

## Atonement

Isaiah 49:26

"I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh, And they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine; And all flesh will know that **I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**"

Isaiah 54:8

"In an outburst of anger **I hid My face from you for a moment**, But with everlasting lovingkindness **I will have compassion on you,**" **Says the LORD your Redeemer.**

Isaiah 60:16

"You will also suck the milk of nations And suck the breast of kings; Then you will know that **I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**

Isaiah 62:12

**And they will call them, "The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD";** And you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."

Isaiah 63:4

**"For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come.**

Hosea 7:13

**Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me!** Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! **I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.**

Hosea 13:14

**Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?** Shall I redeem them from death? **O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting?** Compassion will be hidden from My sight.

Micah 4:10

"Writhe and labor to give birth, Daughter of Zion, Like a woman in childbirth; For now you will go out of the city, Dwell in the field, And go to Babylon. There you will be rescued; **There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.**

**The new Covenant establishes Jesus as the redeemer of His people in His first Advent.**

Luke 1:68

"Blessed [be] the **Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,**

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Romans 3:24

**being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;**

Galatians 3:13

**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—**

Galatians 4:5

so that **He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

1 Peter 1:18

knowing that you were **not redeemed with perishable things** like silver or gold **from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,**

Ephesians 1:7

**In Him we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 1:14

**in whom we have redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.

Titus 2:13-14

13 looking for the **blessed hope and the appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 **who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed**, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, **zealous for good deeds.**

We see in Titus 2:13 that our blessed hope is the physical return of Jesus Christ at His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming to redeem His people. Verse 14 shows that being zealous to do good works follows a redeemed and sanctified people.

Hebrews 9:12

and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood**, He entered the holy place once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption.**

Hebrews 9:15

¶ For this reason **He is the mediator of a new covenant**, so that, **since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were [committed] under the first covenant**, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

**... and again in His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent**

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Luke 21:28

"But **when these things begin to take place**, straighten up and lift up your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.**"

Romans 8:23

And not only this, but also **we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for [our] adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

Ephesians 1:14

who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption** of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 4:30

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, **by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

## Sanctification

Sanctification is the 'setting apart' by God the person who has received the gift of Eternal Life in Jesus as evidenced by the in-dwelling of God's Holy Spirit. Sanctification is immediate and continual, often called Progressive Sanctification. It is immediate in that God sets apart the believer and *declares* him holy, not because of whom or what he is or has done, but because of whom Jesus is and what He has done on our behalf. We in essence have the *legal standing* of holy due to God our Judge declaring us holy because of the work of Jesus in our stead.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR [God's] OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Sanctification is also a process (Progressive Sanctification) through which the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit transforms the believer to live a life where our *moral condition* is brought into conformity with our *legal condition* before God. Being declared holy is a legal condition, becoming holy is a moral condition. Both are the Divine workings of God. Both represent the two senses of Sanctification: immediate (declared holy) and progressive (becoming holy).

Colossians 3:12

¶ So, as those who have been **chosen of God, holy and beloved**, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

The above verse in Colossians shows both senses of Sanctification, The first part of the verse shows an Immediate Sanctification, that we have been chosen by God, and

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declared holy by God because of Jesus. The second part of the verse shows our duty as a redeemed people in bringing our moral condition more in line with our declared state of holiness.

Let's examine a few Scriptures that illustrate both senses of Sanctification beginning with *Immediate Sanctification*, being declared holy by God.

1 Corinthians 3:17

If any man destroys the **temple of God**, God will destroy him, for **the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are**.

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we would be holy and blameless before Him**. In love

5 **He predestined us to adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Hebrews 3:1

¶ Therefore, **holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling**, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

And Scriptures that speak to *Progressive Sanctification*, our walk in growing in holiness.

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all [your] behavior**;

16 because it is written, "**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**"

Ephesians 2:21

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **is growing into a holy temple** in the Lord,

Ephesians 4:1

¶ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been called,

Romans 12:1

¶ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship**.

1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are **being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Sanctification follows immediately upon regeneration, being born again to a newness of life. This is where the Holy Spirit continues the work started by Jesus Christ, and imparts His fruit and gifts to one redeemed through the blood of Jesus to continue to live a life holy unto the Lord, growing in grace, knowledge, love and obedience to God.

Romans 15:16

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that [my] offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, **sanctified by the Holy Spirit**.

Sanctification can be better understood when contrasted with Justification.

Sanctification is both immediate, (instantaneous) and ongoing, (progressive) requiring an entire lifetime to complete. Justification on the other hand is *instantaneous* and *complete* in a single moment in time. When a person is justified by Christ they are all at once justified ... completely and instantaneously ... no further justification remains.

Justification is a declared act of God. Sanctification is also a declared act of God and is a transforming work of God in the character, morality, and spiritual condition (obedience to God) of the person Sanctified. Sanctification narrows the gap between being declared holy and the individual's journey of becoming holy.

Justification is *objective*, that is, it affects our immediate standing and relationship before our Holy God while Sanctification is both *objective* and *subjective*. It is subjective in that it effects and transforms our inner person. It is a spiritual transformation of who we are in substance and essence.

## Salvation

Salvation is the fruit of the Atonement of Jesus our Messiah's work at Calvary. Salvation is far too extensive a study to be undertaken here, but one that must be addressed as the fruit of the Atoning work of God, for without the *Atonement*, the *Resurrection* and the *Ascension* of Jesus, (referred to as the Calvary Event) there is no Salvation for the believer. There is an inseparable connection between the Atoning work of Jesus and Salvation. That is the essential point of including Salvation in the study of Atonement.

## Limits of Atonement

The preponderance of Scriptures on the extent of the Atonement seems to suggest that God first has decided to make Salvation *available* to all humanity, and then *predestines* those whom He *elects* to receive it. While this is a hotly contested debate within Contemporary Christianity, the Scriptures clearly speak to the *predestination* of the *elect* and the *self-determination* of individuals to accept the gift of Salvation from God. **It**

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appears that the self-determination of man is the mechanism God puts in place as His means to exercise His Sovereign will ... only the *elect* choose His gift of Salvation through Jesus.

Let's look at a couple of Scriptures that speak to the gift of Salvation being available to all humanity.

Acts 17:30

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, **God is now declaring to men that all [people] everywhere should repent,**

1 Timothy 2:3-4

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 **who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Let's now compare this with the Scriptures that speak to the Sovereign will of God in selecting those He grants the gift of Salvation.

Romans 8:29-30

29 ¶ **For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son,** so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and **these whom He predestined, He also called;** and **these whom He called, He also justified;** and **these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

Ephesians 1:5

**He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**

Ephesians 1:11

also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,**

The use of the term *Elect*, also speaks to the *Divine Election of God* to those He is calling to Salvation. The Greek word for elect is εκλεκτος *eklektos* (*ek-lek-tos*) which means picked out and chosen. When referring to Divine Election, it means those chosen by God to receive the gift of Salvation. Jesus is referred to as The Elect or Chosen One of God as the means of Salvation, and also refers to those He has selected for Salvation. The words of Jesus attest to in the following verse.

Matthew 22:14

"For *many* are called, but *few* [are] **chosen (eklektos).**"

Luke 23:35

And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His **Chosen One (eklektos).**"

## Atonement

2 Timothy 2:10

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are **chosen (eklektos)**, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus [and] with [it] eternal glory.

Romans 8:33

Who will bring a charge against God's **elect? (eklektos)** God is the one who justifies;

Colossians 3:12

¶ So, as those who have been **chosen (eklektos)** of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

There are some who claim the elect or chosen of God refer to ethnic Israel, the Jews alone, but the Scriptures in no way support such a contention. There are also those who would falsely contend that sickness and all forms of deformities and physical maladies were borne by Jesus on the cross as part of the Atonement. They make this false contention in a desperate attempt to justify their claims that man has "a *right to demand or claim healing*" due to the sacrifice of Jesus in an effort to support their 'fleece the flock ministry of healing."

Divine healing is a supernatural act of God introduced like any other miracle in both Old and New Testaments. It is false and misleading to teach that a person's *faith* is the essential element to *claim* Divine Healing ... for it is not, nor was it *ever man's right* to claim healing. The reason the false prophets want to insert illnesses to the Atonement is they want to falsely and maliciously teach that a believer has the right to claim healing in the same manner that the believer may *claim forgiveness* of sins due to the Atoning work of Jesus.

They are in error on all counts. Believers *do not demand forgiveness*, nor do they have the *right to claim forgiveness* but **believers do have the *privilege to request God's forgiveness of their sins with the full assuredness that God will forgive them.*** If believer's do not have the right to claim or demand forgiveness of sin, and forgiveness of sin is in the Atonement ... how much less do they have the right to claim or demand physical healing ... which is not part of the Atonement?

**All true believers know and understand that the earthly body is temporary.** We are promised eternal life through the work of Jesus on our behalf but this does not mean an eternal temporal existence in our body of flesh. The believer receives the gift of eternal life at the instant of his regeneration, his being 'born again' and adopted as a child of God ... but is in no way deceived into thinking that means an immortal existence in this body of flesh. The same holds true for the **healing of the breach that sin created to separate man from God.** It was this breach that was healed by Jesus in His atoning work at Calvary. That's the healing accomplished through the *Reconciliation* of man with God through Jesus, and why we are now *Justified* before God.

## Atonement

Healing in Atonement is the spiritual healing between man and God. It is the destruction of the flesh for construction of the spirit.

1 Peter 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might **die to sin** and **live to righteousness**; for **by His wounds you were healed**.

The very verse used by the scoffers to claim physical healing by the Atonement of Jesus when looked upon in context clearly shows ***spiritual healing***.

Psalms 147:3

**He heals the brokenhearted** And **binds up their wounds**.

Jeremiah 30:17

**'For I will restore you to health** And **I will heal you of your wounds,**' declares the LORD, **'Because they have called you an outcast,** saying: "It is Zion; no one cares for her."

We **were** healed by Jesus' willingly submitting to the destruction of His fleshly temple for the sins of man. Were healed is past tense, not present or future tense. When the body of Jesus was broken for our transgressions, Jesus restored man to God.

Matthew 26:61

and said, "This man stated, **'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'**"

Mark 14:58

"We heard Him say, **'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another** made without hands."

The body of Jesus is the temple of God. The flesh is made by the hand of God ...

Genesis 2:7

Then the **LORD God formed man of dust from the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

To demolish the flesh is to polish the spirit. Death to sin, and life to righteousness is the same as saying death to the flesh ... the call of all Christians, ... and new life from the Spirit.

Romans 6:10

**For the death that He died, He died to sin** once for all; **but the life that He lives, He lives to God**.

Romans 8:2

For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has set you **free from the law of sin and of death**.

## Atonement

We are to carry our cross daily, and put to death the deeds of the flesh.

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to [them] all, "**If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must *deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.***"

1 Corinthians 15:31

I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**

To carry our cross daily is to focus upon the atoning work of Jesus at Calvary. We too are called to the destruction of the flesh for the construction of the spirit. To focus upon the restoration of the flesh is in diametric opposition to the message of the Cross of Christ and the call of Christianity. To set our minds upon this earthly tent is to divert our minds from the heavenly temple.

Romans 8:13

for if you are **living according to the flesh, you must die**; but if **by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

Romans 8:6

For the **mind set on the flesh is death**, but the **mind set on the Spirit is life and peace**,

The teaching of physical healing through the atonement is a perversion of the Word of God and accomplishes the exact opposite of God's call to humanity.

Grace, Peace and Truth.