



## Sacrifice

Skins of sacrificed animals covered Adam and Eve's sin as they left the Garden of Eden. They had sinned and as a punishment they were banned from the Garden of Eden but God gave them a covering, the skins of slain animals.

God supplied a ram as the sacrifice to replace Abraham's son Isaac. God was testing Abraham; who did he love the most, God or his son? And, being willing to put God first, Abraham found that God had placed a ram on Mount Zion to be the sacrifice in place of Abraham's child.

A lamb was also sacrificed at that first Passover in Egypt. Moses passed on the message of that day. Each family had to sacrifice a lamb. But this time there was an extra part. The people had to mark the door posts and lintels of their houses with the lamb's blood and cook and eat the lamb.

John the Baptist looked on Jesus of Nazareth and said, "Behold the lamb of God." A change was taking place. Instead of an animal dieing as the sacrifice for a man now a man was to die, but this was no ordinary man. This was God in human form. He was willing to be the sacrifice for all.

Jesus said that unless we eat His body and drink His blood we have no part in Him. He, the Lamb of God, was slain at Calvary as the final sacrifice.

Then, in Revelation 5, the Book of Life was all but lost. A bloody lamb, looking as if it had been slain, stepped forward from the throne of God to redeem it. Jesus is that lamb.

So, from Genesis to Revelation, the Bible consistently teaches that only through the death of God's Lamb sacrifice can we be redeemed. There is no other way.

It is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross that redeems us and makes us pure before God. That sacrifice covers all sin; just as it did with Adam and Eve, just as it did with the Israelites, and Abraham's son Isaac.

Although the old sacrifice covered the sinner that person still went away from the altar with the same desires, the same problems, the same life. Although the blood covered the sinner and the life of the animal was in the blood, that couldn't affect our life. We could not take on the life of the lamb.

The blood of Christ also has the life of Christ, and here is the big difference between the Old Testament and the New. Not only does the blood of Christ cover every true Christian but the life that was in that blood can come into and take over our life.

When we fully die to self and accept Christ as the sacrifice then we walk away from the altar we have His life, His desires and none of the same problems.

But to be effective our lives must display that we accept the sacrifice of Jesus. Just as surely as the blood on the doorposts showed who had taken the Passover sacrifice in Egypt so must our lives show the life of Christ.

And we must eat the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life. For the Word of God is Jesus Christ and by reading the Bible daily we feeding on the God's Word: we are feeding on Jesus Christ, the Lamb.

*Just a final thought on the effect of the different sacrifices:*

Under the blood of bulls and goats and rams, Samson destroyed the Philistines, David ruled a kingdom, Moses opened the Red Sea and Elijah called down fire from heaven and raised the dead.

How much more powerful is the blood of Jesus Christ and what does that allow us to do?

Refs: Genesis 3 v21-23, Genesis 22 v7-14, Exodus 12 v1-13, John 1 v29, Revelation 5 v 1-9. John 1 v1 & v14

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