

# JESUS, THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

Lesson 9 for February 26, 2022



The sacrifices of animals were the means of salvation until Jesus came, because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22 NIV)

Why did God choose such a bloody method to give salvation?  
What is more, why did Jesus have to be sacrificed?

On the other hand, wasn't everything finished at the cross?  
Why does Paul mention that Jesus continued His work in the Heavenly Sanctuary?



- ▶ Why were sacrifices necessary?
- ▶ When were sacrifices necessary?
- ▶ What does Jesus' sacrifice offer?
- ▶ What's the role of Jesus' sacrifice today?



# WHY WERE SACRIFICES NECESSARY?

**"By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)**

**Animal sacrifices had various meanings: forgiveness, gratitude... They were also part of the covenant, an agreement between two parties.**

**Splitting the sacrificed animals in half was an old covenant tradition. The halves were placed on the ground, and the parties involved had to walk between them (Gn. 15:9-10, 17; Jer. 34:18).**

**"This being done, he [Abraham] reverently passed between the parts of the sacrifice, making a solemn vow to God of perpetual obedience." (E.G.W., Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 12, p. 137). Then, God did the same, thus ratifying the covenant.**

**Shedding of blood was necessary to ratify the New Covenant too. In this case, the blood of Jesus. God was there (2Co. 5:19). Will you ratify the covenant by walking with Jesus every day?**



# WHEN WERE SACRIFICES NECESSARY?

"how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14)

Several types of sacrifices and offerings were offered in the sanctuary, depending on their purpose:



**Holocaust offering.** It was fully consumed. It represented atonement, Jesus' complete surrender at the cross



**Grain offering.** A gift of gratitude for God's provision. It represented Jesus as the bread of life



**Peace offering.** It implied a joyful communal meal with family. It represented Jesus as our peace. Jesus also invited us to eat His body and drink His blood (Jn. 6:54)



**Sin offering.** It provided expiation for sins. It represented Jesus as our Redeemer (Mt. 26:28)



**Guilt offering.** It provided forgiveness when reparation or restitution was also necessary



# WHAT DOES JESUS' SACRIFICE OFFER?

“Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.” (Hebrews 7:27 NIV)

The sacrifice of Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament sacrifices (Jn. 1:29). It has the following unique characteristics:



- It can cleanse our consciences (Heb. 9:14)
- It can take away our sins (Heb. 9:26)
- It offers sanctification (Heb. 10:10)
- It is effective and unsurpassable (Heb. 10:12)
- It makes us perfect (Heb. 10:14)
- It allows us to come near to God (Heb. 10:19-22)
- It gives us an example to follow (Heb. 12:2)

# WHAT'S THE ROLE OF JESUS' SACRIFICE TODAY? (1)

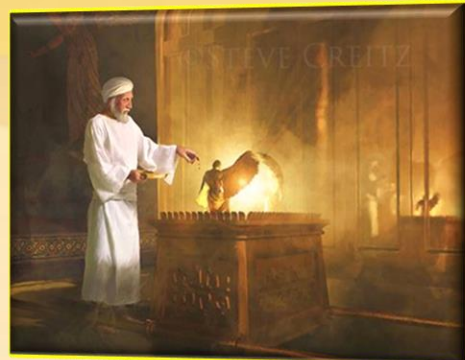
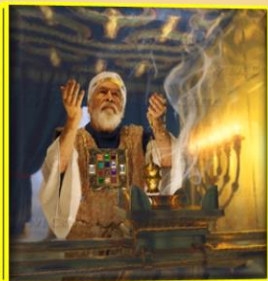
*"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;" (Hebrews 9:24)*

The ministry of earthly priests did not end when the animal was sacrificed. Similarly, the ministry of Jesus did not end when He died on the cross.

Depending on the category of the person's sin, the priest sprinkled the blood on the veil of the Most Holy Place (a priest or the congregation; Lv. 4:1-21) or ate the flesh of the victim (Lv. 6:25-26). In both cases, the sin was symbolically taken into the Tabernacle.

In the Day of Atonement—once a year—, the Sanctuary was purified from all the sins that had been confessed during the year (Lv. 16).

Since Jesus ascended, He is conducting His intercessory ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary. He is applying His blood to save anyone who asks for forgiveness (Heb. 7:25).





# WHAT'S THE ROLE OF JESUS' SACRIFICE TODAY? (2)

**"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." (Hebrews 9:27-28)**

Paul explained that there's a work of judgment taking place between the Cross and the Second Coming. When Jesus comes back, He won't be related to sin at all. Every sinner will have already been judged, and every sin will have already been forgiven.

This judgment is the second phase of Jesus' ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary. It is known as "the cleansing of the sanctuary" (Lv. 16:16; Dn. 8:14).

The purpose of this judgment is to prove that God's forgiveness is fair. When the records are open before the universe, God will show what happened in the hearts of believers and how they embraced Jesus as their Savior.



**“The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross [...] And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise. [...] [He] who opened blind eyes and called forth the dead to life,—offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice, and this from love to thee.”**