

Law, Priesthood & Sacrifice

Growing to Maturity Chapter 1
Section B

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The People of Israel

- Descendants of Avraham through Yitzchak & Ya'akov
- Israelites came under cruel bondage in Egypt
- G-D rescued them with a mighty hand & an outstretched arm

The Pesach

- G-D conquered every Egypt god
- Conquered the “Sun-god” last
- Brought death to Pharaoh's son
- G-D spared the first-born of Israel
- Israel's salvation required a blood sacrifice
- The Passover lamb was slain, and our people sought refuge under the blood of the lamb

Elements of Israel's Salvation

- Israel's salvation was an act of G-d; Israel could not save itself
- Israel's deliverance required faith (trust)
 - In faith, our fathers walked through the Red Sea
 - Later, in faith, our fathers marched around Jericho
- Blood sacrifice averted G-D's judgment.
- IT'S THE SAME WITH US.

The *Torah*

- Five books written by the hand of Moshe
- G-D's *Instructions*
- ... verses "The Pentateuch" (five books)
- Reflects G-D's universal moral standards
- Examples:
 - 10 Commandments
 - The Sh'ma (Deut 6:4ff)
- Civil Law (standards of justice, ethics and integrity)
- Ceremonial Law

The Curse

- Cursed is every one who does not live according to all the words of the Torah.
- *“...But if you refuse to pay attention to what ADONAI your G-D says, and do not observe and obey all his mitzvot and regulations which I am giving you today, then all the following curses will be yours in abundance:...”*

D'varim (Deut) 28:15-68

No Redemption through Works

- We cannot redeem ourselves through good deeds.
- “All of us are like someone unclean, all our deeds like menstrual rags; we wither, all of us, like leaves; and our misdeeds blow us away like the wind.”

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 64:5 (6)

No one is righteous

- “Don’t bring your servant to trial, since in Your sight no one alive would be considered righteous.”

Psalm 143:2

- “...all have sinned and come short of earning G-D’s praise.”

Romans 3:23

The Dilemma

- In comparison to G-D's standard...
- The scale is *ALWAYS* balanced against us.
- We are *CONDEMNED*.

Atonement

- *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for yourselves; **for it is the blood that makes atonement** because of the life.”*

Vayikra (Leviticus) 17:11

Salvation

■ Elements of Israel's Physical Salvation

- Her salvation was an act of G-d; she could not save herself
- Her deliverance required faith (trust)
- Blood sacrifice averted G-D's judgment.

■ Elements of our Spiritual Salvation

- We cannot save ourselves
- Our deliverance requires trust in G-D's provision
- Yeshua IS G-D's provision (substitute sacrifice)

The Sacrifices

- The cohenim (priests) were mediators between G-D & man.
- The sacrifices represented these elements:
 - The *holiness of G-D* in His hatred of sin
 - *Destructiveness of sin* (pictured in the animal's death)
 - The need to *acknowledge our sin*
 - ***The sacrificed animal was a substitute.***
 - The *mercy* of G-D

G-D's Provision through the Messiah

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The Messianic Hope

- The *Tanakh* paints a picture of the *Mashiach*
- Over 54 prophecies were directly fulfilled in Yeshua (more, by some accounts)

The Messiah

- Will one day come to rule and bring G-D's kingdom of peace...
- But first, *He had to lay down his life as a substitute sacrifice for our sins.* (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53)
 - **“ADONAI laid on him the guilt of us all.”** Isaiah 53:6
 - ***for it is the blood that makes atonement...***
Vayikra (Leviticus) 17:11
- Just as through one man (Adam) sin became part of our fleshly nature, so through one Man (Yeshua) are we freed from the bondage of sin.

Covered by the blood of Yeshua, we are considered:

- Perfect according to the *Torah* of ADONAI
- Considered to have died for our sins
- Considered to have risen to new spiritual life in Him

A New Covenant

- NOT replacing the “old covenants...”
- HaShem writes His Torah on our hearts
(Jeremiah 31:30 (31) – 33 (34))

What about “the Cross?”

- The Cross to a Christian represents life; the Cross to a Jew is a sword that represents Death
- As a people, we hold a corporate memory of our people’s persecution over the centuries, usually in the “name of Christ.”
- Our fathers have been slaughtered and driven from land to land as “Christ-killers”
- The Holocaust personally affected many of our families.
- Since 90% of German Nazis claimed to be “Christian,” our people often ask, *“Why was the Church silent?”*

...it is the blood that makes atonement...

Vayikra (Leviticus) 17:11

- Yeshua's atoning death & resurrection are what matters, NOT his means of execution
- His bloody sacrificial death by any other means would still have brought a lasting atonement
- His means of execution is NOT a Core Doctrinal Issue
- We avoid putting any stumbling block before a Jew other than *Yeshua* (the Chief Cornerstone rejected by the builders)

Next Week

- *Much more* about G-D & the Messiah
- The Existence & Nature of G-D
- The Person of the Messiah