

My Atonement Offering: Jesus' Blood

Ponder: How can a holy God forgive a sinner like me?

Scripture: "Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through (the) faith . . ." (Romans 3:25, NKJV).

I have a sin problem. So do you. We've quoted Romans 3:23 innumerable times: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Now, what is to be done about it?

Sin carries an enormous penalty. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Physical death, scary as it is, pales by comparison to spiritual death – being separated eternally from God, Who is the source of all life.

God's holiness and justice demand that the penalty for sin be paid. Yet, in His love and mercy, God wants to forgive us and receive us into His fellowship. How can these things be reconciled? Only God Himself could solve this dilemma.

In short, holiness and justice of God meet the love and mercy of God at the cross! There, God set forth His precious Son, Jesus, to be "a propitiation by His blood." The word "propitiation" simply means "atonement offering."

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament "Day of Atonement" (Yom Kippur). In Leviticus 16, we see that on the annual Day of Atonement, the High Priest sacrificed a young bull and a goat. He took the bull's blood into the Most Holy place and applied some with his finger to the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, called the mercy seat. This atoned for the sins of all the priests. Then the High Priest went again into the Most Holy Place, this time applying the goat's blood to the mercy seat to atone for the people's sins.

The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). But the blood of Jesus can and does! All of the sacrifices of the Old Testament looked forward to that ultimate atonement offering. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, He entered the true Most Holy Place in heaven and offered His own blood, once-for-all, to atone for the sins of all humanity (Hebrews 9:11-12).

We receive the benefits of Jesus' atonement by means of "the faith." When we believe and obey the gospel, our sins are washed away in the blood of Jesus. Only God could conceive and carry out such a marvelous plan. Praise His holy name!

Song: "What Can Wash Away My Sin?"

Prayer: "Holy Father, we praise and thank You for the indescribable gift of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, to be our atonement offering. We thank You for the forgiveness that we have through the blood He shed at Calvary. May we never lose sight of the depth of Your love that moved You to do this for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.