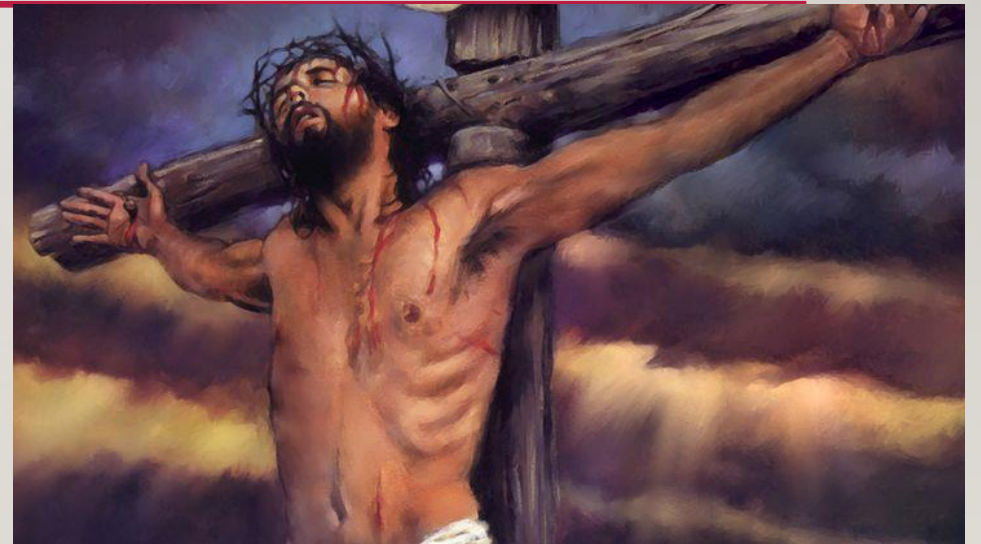


SACRIFICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ITS CHRISTOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- A BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

PRESENTED AT THE WAD AARC SEMINAR – MAY 26,
2025

DR THEODORE U. DICKSON



2

KEY TEXT

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.

Psalms 51:17 (NKJ)

GUILT/SIN OFFERING

WHY: Atonement for accidental sins.

WHERE: Bronze Altar

WHAT: Depends on who the offender is:

A priest or the
entire community:
bull



A ruler:
male goat



An individual could choose one of the following options:



1

1 female goat or
1 female lamb



3

2 pigeons or
doves

4



5

2 quarts of flour

3

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the origin and purpose of sacrifices in the Old Testament.
- Explore the nature of Old Testament sacrifices and their significance
- Identify key symbols and their meanings.
- Types of sacrifices, their purpose/meaning, requirements and significance
- Explore the sanctuary sacrificial elements/symbols, procedures and their spiritual significance.
- Analyze the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).
- Examine the Christological fulfillment of Old Testament sacrifices.



4 ORIGIN AND BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF OT SACRIFICE

- **Post-Fall Sacrifice:** Genesis 3:21 – God made garments of skin (implication of the first death/sacrifice) – substitutionary sacrifice in its microcosm.
- **Key Point:** Sacrifice originated as a response to sin and a means of worship.



5 CAIN AND ABEL'S OFFERINGS

Genesis 4:3-5 provide biblical Foundation for sacrifice – indicating that the purpose, method and meaning of sacrifice was communicated.

This affected the outcome of the two sacrifices



6

SACRIFICES DURING THE PATRIARCHAL PERIOD

GENESIS 8 - NOAH'S POST-FLOOD SACRIFICE



GENESIS 22 – ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC



7 OBJECTIVE AND MEANING OF SACRIFICE

- **Hebrew term:** *Korban* – קרבן “to draw near.”
- **Objectives:**
 - Atonement for sin (Leviticus 17:11)
 - Thanksgiving and fellowship
 - Dedication and consecration
- **Meaning:** A symbolic act expressing devotion, repentance, and reliance on divine mercy.

NATURE OF OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES

8



9

I. SYMBOLIC

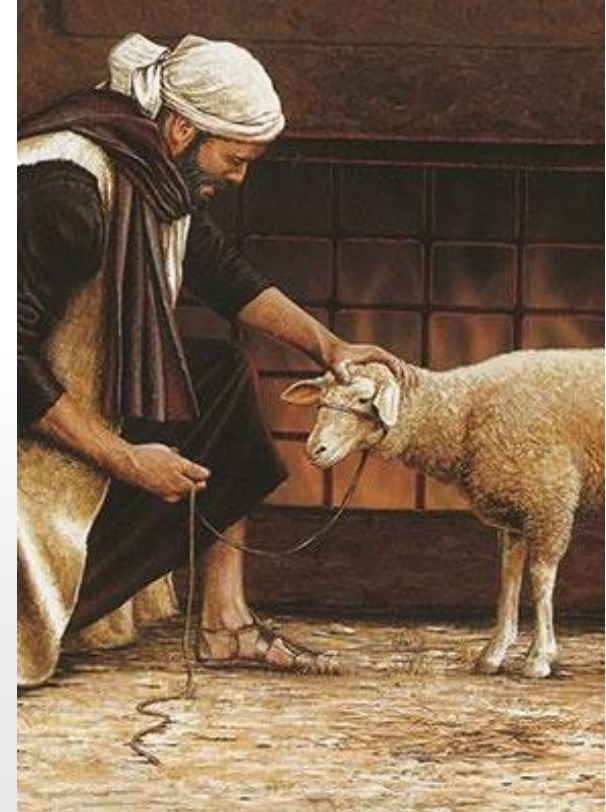
- Represented deeper spiritual truths: atonement, substitution, purification, thanksgiving, and fellowship.
- **Example:** The unblemished lamb symbolized the sinless Christ (Exodus 12:5; John 1:29).



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2. SUBSTITUTIONARY

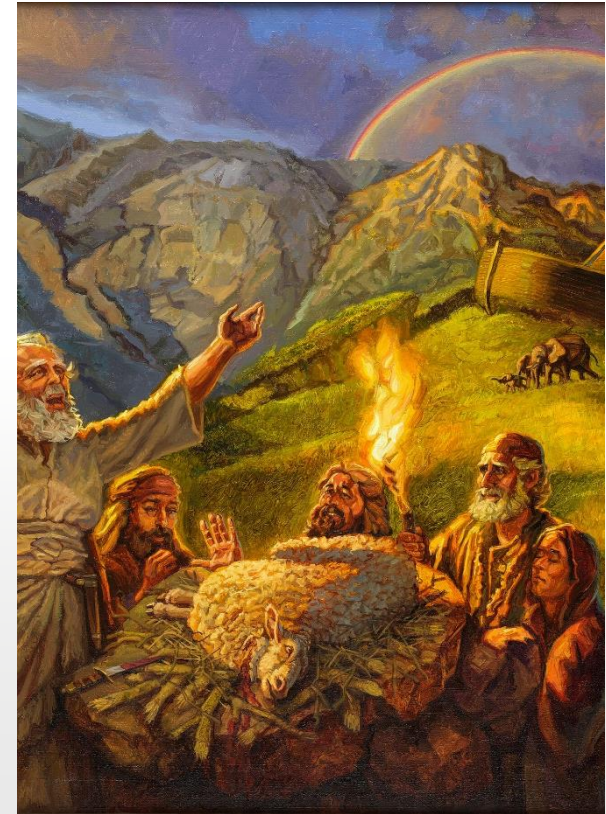
- The animal died in place of the sinner, highlighting the seriousness of sin.
- **Key Text:** *“The life of the flesh is in the blood...”* (Leviticus 17:11).





3. COVENANTAL

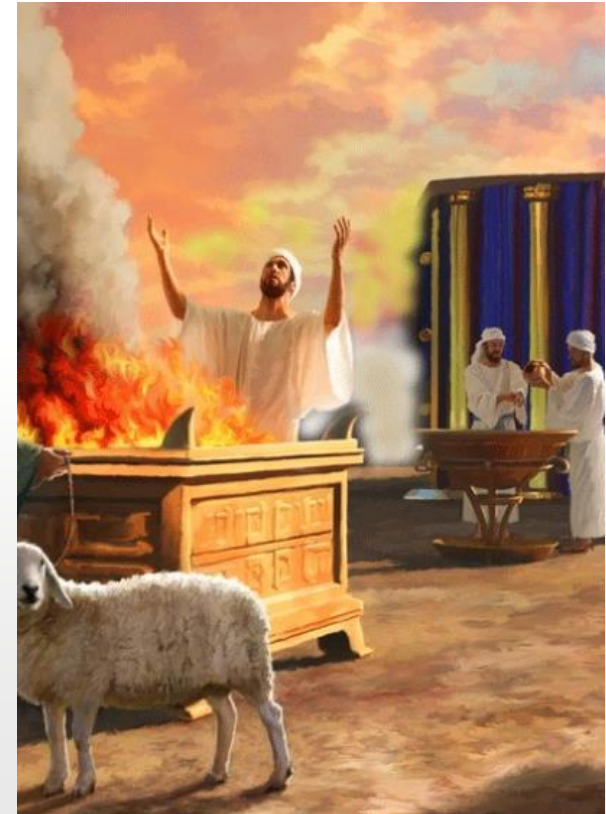
- Reinforced the covenant relationship between God and Israel.
- Sacrifices were central in covenant-making (Genesis 15:9–10; Exodus 24:6–8).



12

4. TEMPORARY AND REPETITIVE

- Could not fully remove sin; they were repeated continually.
- **Hebrews 10:1–4:** “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

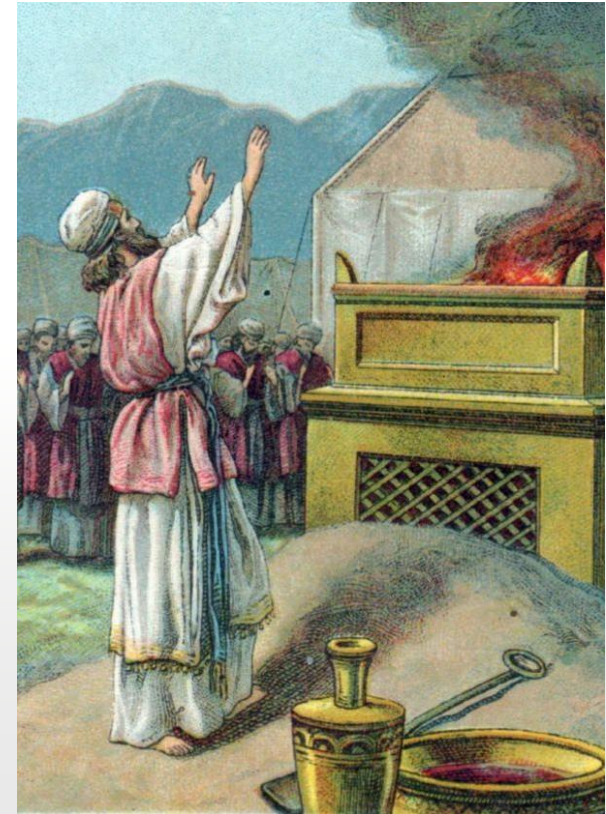


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5. RITUALISTIC BUT SPIRITUAL IN INTENT

- Though involving detailed rituals, God desired heart engagement (1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:16–17).
- Sacrifices were to be offered with faith and repentance.

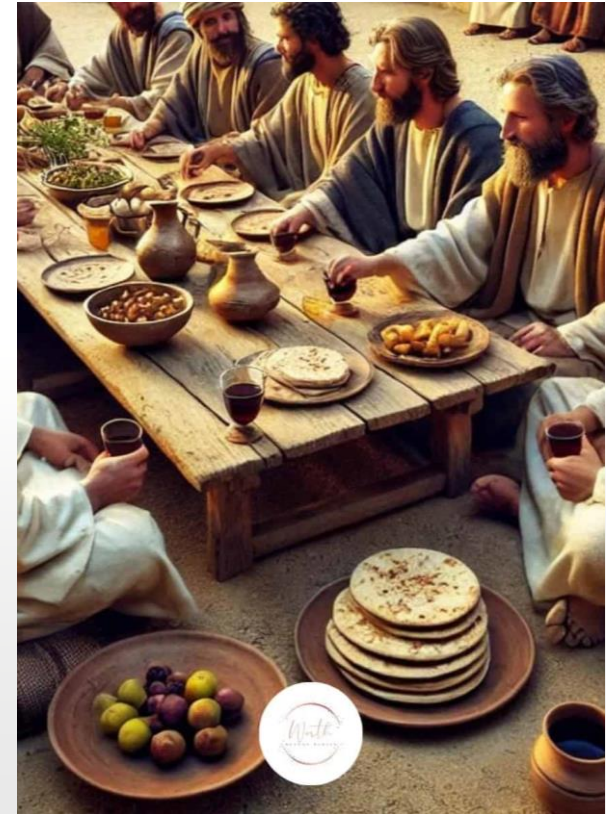
“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” - Psa 51:17



14

6. COMMUNAL AND PERSONAL

- Some offerings were national (e.g., Day of Atonement), others were individual.
- Illustrated the community's shared responsibility and individual devotion.



15

SACRIFICIAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Unblemished animals** (Leviticus 22:21)
- **Right offering** based on purpose (sin, guilt, peace, etc.)
- **Proper motive** (1 Samuel 15:22)
- **Cleanliness** and ritual purity of the offerer
- **Prescribed time and place** (Leviticus 16:29)



16

TYPES OF OT SACRIFICES

THE VOLUNTARY OFFERING

- The burnt offering
- The peace offering
- The meat (cereal) offering

THE OBLIGATORY OFFERING

- The sin offering
- The trespass offering



TYPES OF SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (PART I)

Sacrifice Type	Meaning & Purpose	Requirements	Biblical Reference	Christological Significance
Burnt Offering (<i>Olah</i>)	Total dedication to God; atonement for sin and unintentional guilt	Unblemished male from herd/flock; entirely burned on altar	Leviticus 1	Jesus' total obedience and self-sacrifice (Phil. 2:8; Eph. 5:2)
Grain Offering (<i>Minchah</i>)	Thanksgiving and dedication of work/harvest to God	Fine flour, oil, and frankincense; no yeast or honey	Leviticus 2	Christ as the Bread of Life; offering of sinless life (John 6:35)
Peace Offering (<i>Zebach Shelamim</i>)	Fellowship with God; gratitude or fulfillment of a vow	Male or female animal; shared between God, priest, and offerer	Leviticus 3	Christ restores peace between God and man (Romans 5:1)

18 TYPES OF SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (PART 2)

Sacrifice Type	Meaning & Purpose	Requirements	Biblical Reference	Christological Significance
Sin Offering (<i>Chatat</i>)	Atonement for unintentional sin against God's holiness	Specific animals for priest, leader, or common person	Leviticus 4	Christ bore the penalty for our sin (Hebrews 9:28; Isaiah 53:5–6)
Guilt Offering (<i>Asham</i>)	Compensation for offenses requiring restitution	Ram without blemish plus monetary compensation	Leviticus 5–6	Christ paid the debt we could not repay (Isaiah 53:10; Col. 2:14)
Drink Offering (<i>Nesek</i>)	Accompanied other offerings as a symbol of joy or celebration	Wine poured before the Lord	Numbers 15:5–10	Symbol of Christ's poured-out blood and joy in sacrifice (Luke 22:20)

19

THE SANCTUARY

"And let them make Me a sanctuary,
that I may dwell among them.

- Exodus 25:8 (NKJ)

The sanctuary was the centre of
Israel's spiritual life. A Place of meeting
with God



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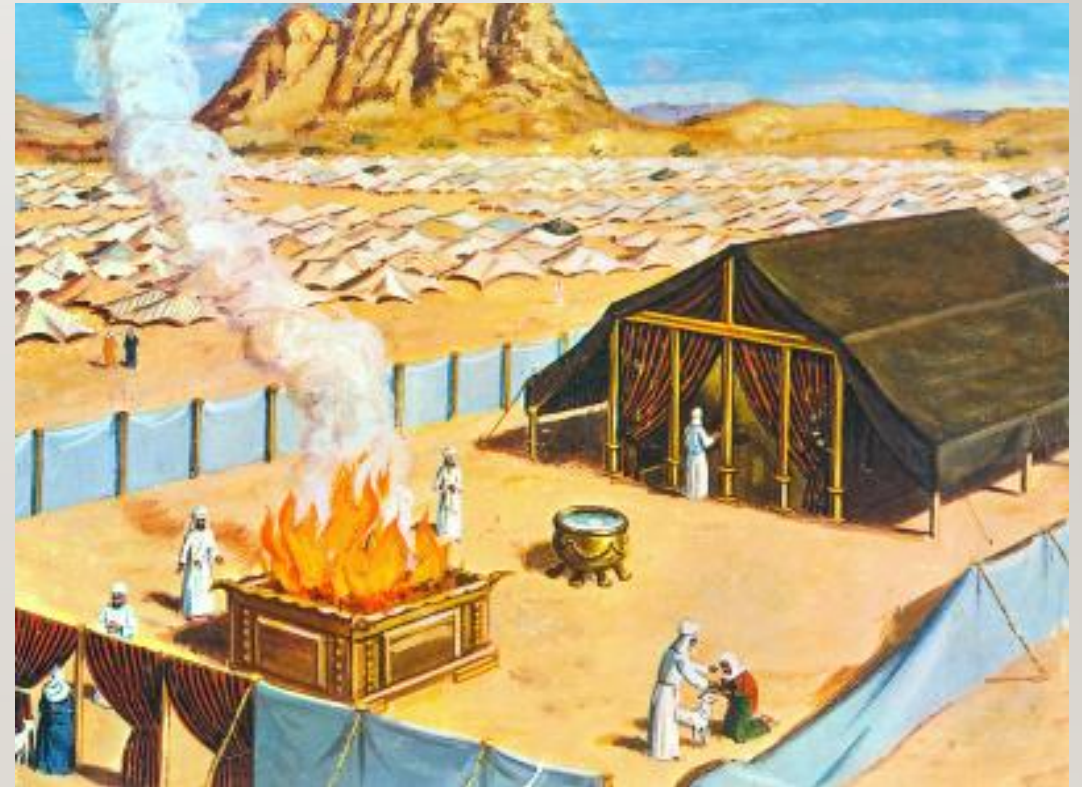
SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Symbol	Meaning	Reference
Blood	Life offered for life (Leviticus 17:11)	Leviticus 17:11
Fire	Divine acceptance (Leviticus 9:24)	Leviticus 1:9
Altar	Meeting point with God	Exodus 27:1-8
Incense	Prayer and intercession	Psalms 141:2
Unblemished Animal	Purity and perfection	Exodus 12:5

21

SACRIFICIAL OFFICIALS

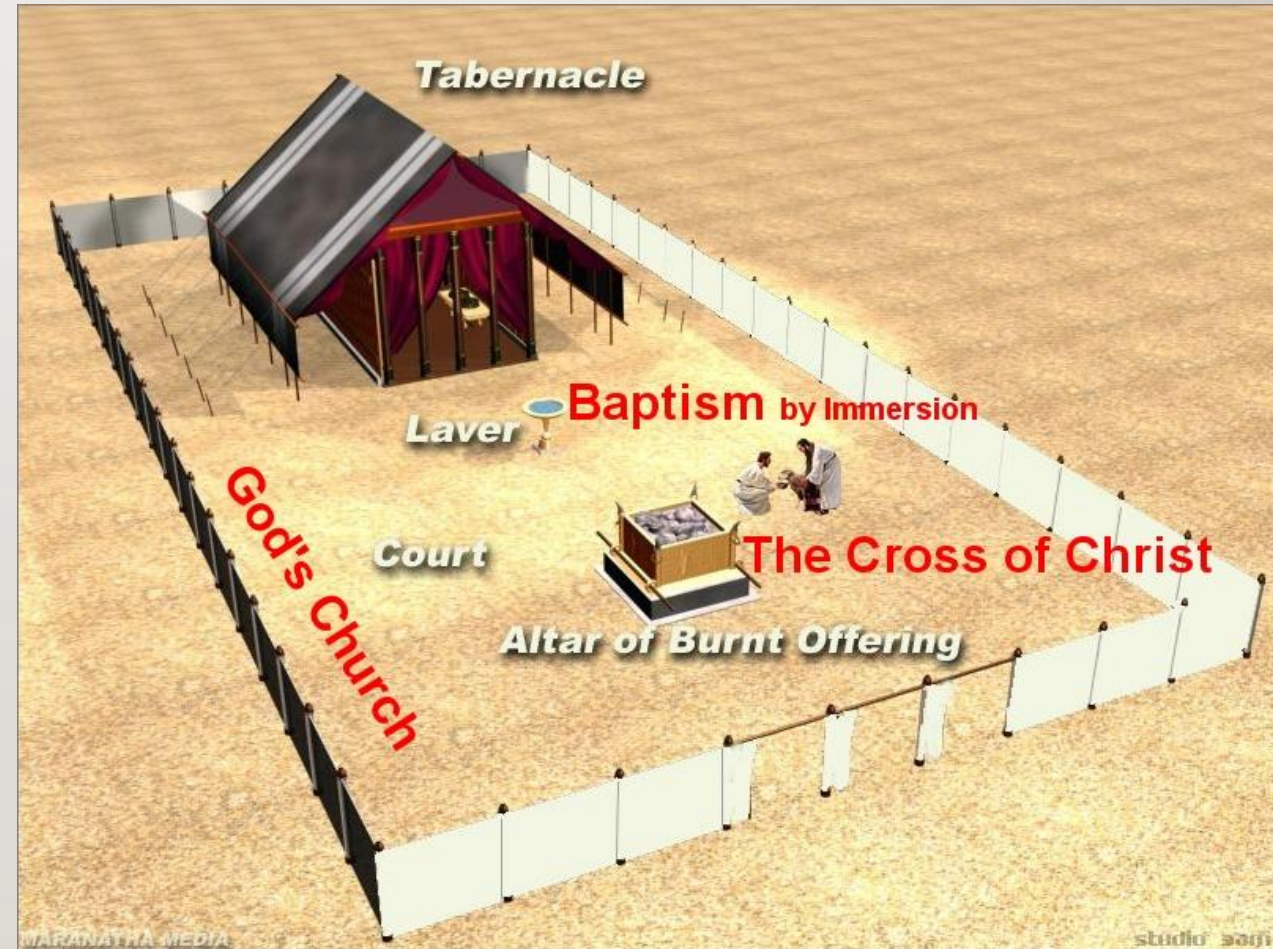
- **Priests:** From the tribe of Levi (Leviticus 8–9)
- **High Priest:** Only he could enter the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 9:7)
- **Levites:** Assisted in preparation and service
- **Jesus as Ultimate High Priest:** Hebrews 4:14–16



22 NATURE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SANCTUARY

•Three Zones:

- Outer Court (Altar of Burnt Offering, Laver)
- Holy Place (Lampstand, Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense)
- Most Holy Place (Ark of the Covenant)
- **Symbolism:** God's holiness and humanity's approach



23

THE HOLY PLACE

The Table of Showbread (Bread of the Presence)

The Golden Lampstand (Menorah)

The Altar of Incense

Exodus 25-30; Lev 24:1-9; Heb 9:1-2



24

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

The Ark of the Covenant – God's Presence

The Mercy Seat – Where God speaks from/Grace

The Ten Commandments – God's Character and Standard of Judgment

Aaron's Rod - Priesthood

Pot of Manner – God's Benevolence – Heb 9:3-5



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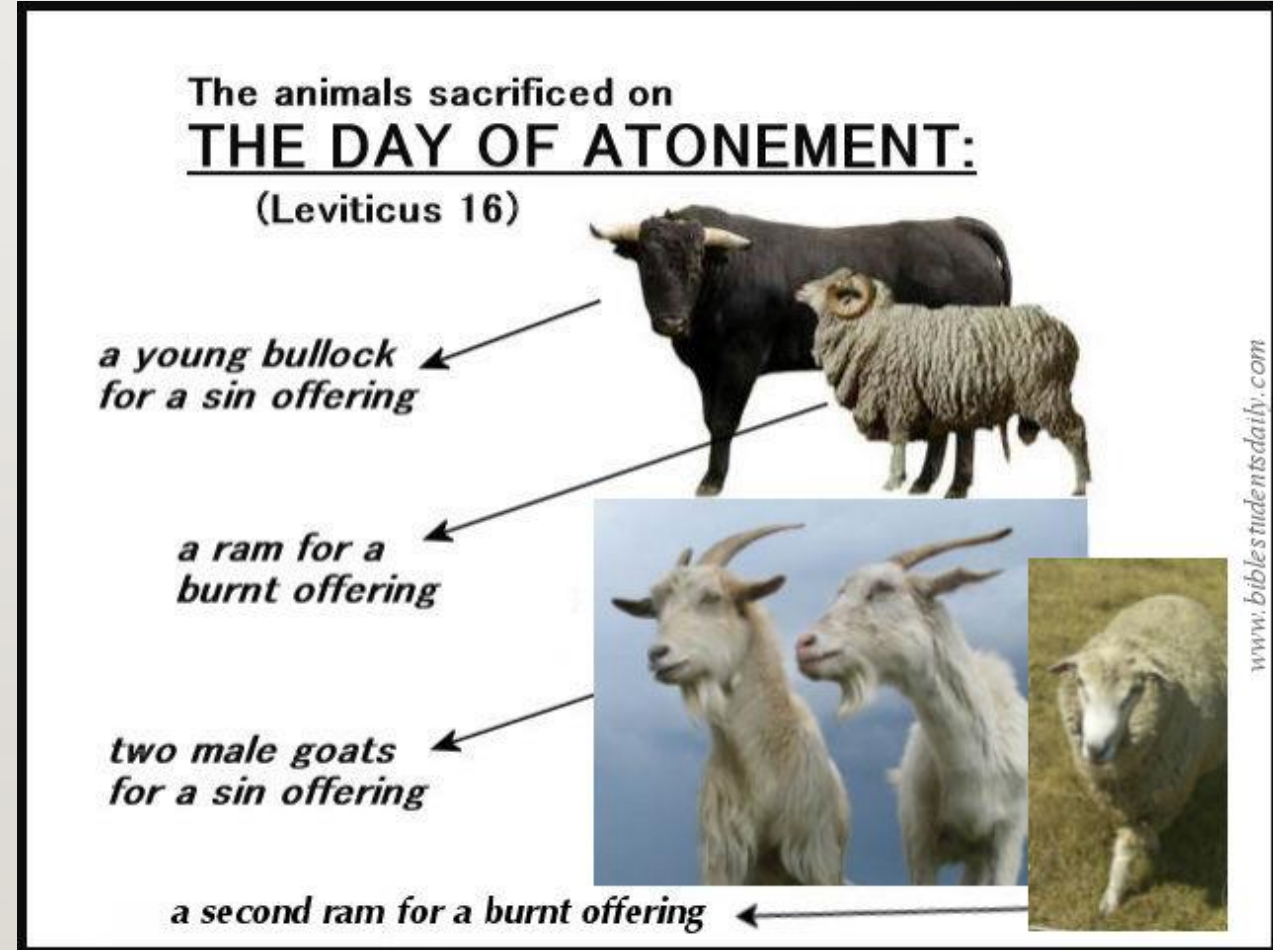
THE DAY OF ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR)

Purpose: Annual atonement for all of Israel

•Key Elements:

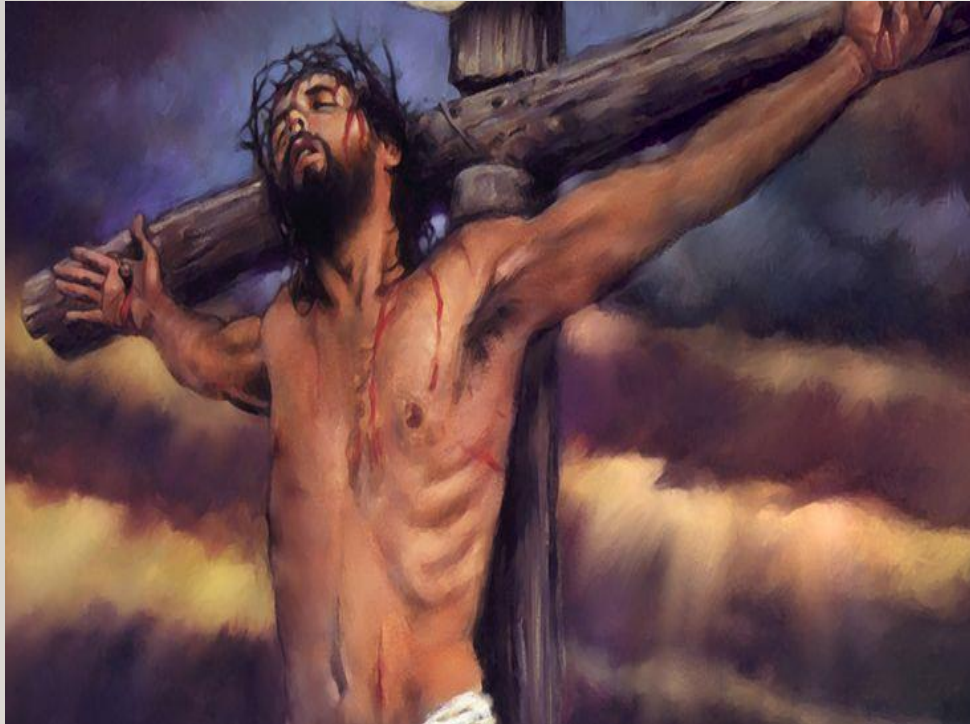
- High Priest enters the Holy of Holies
- Two goats: One sacrificed, one (scapegoat) released
- Blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat

•Typology: Prefigures Christ's once-for-all sacrifice
(Hebrews 9:12)



26

THE CROSS: END OF THE ISRAELITE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM



- Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; **But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.** And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." (Dan 9:27 NKJ)

27

JESUS CHRIST: THE FULFILMENT OF THE ISRAELITE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

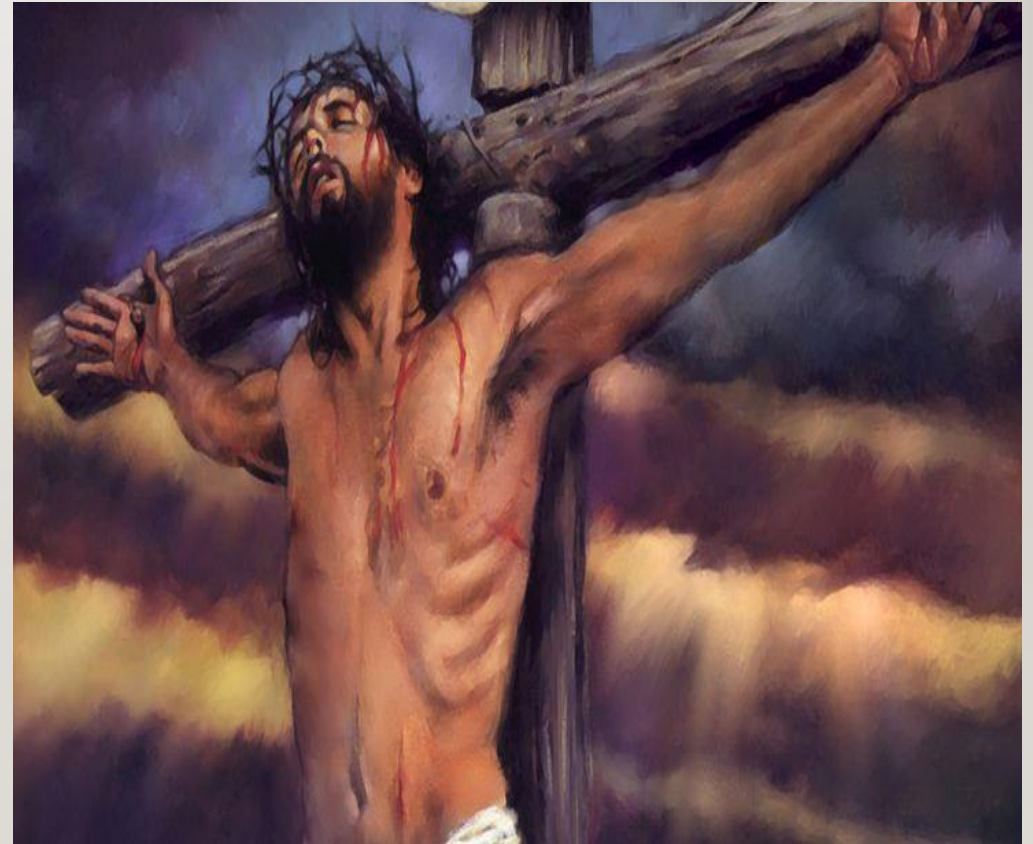
- The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJ)
- So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **"It is finished!"** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. John 19:30 (NKJ)



28

JESUS CHRIST: THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND END OF ALL SACRIFICES AND OBLATIONS

- Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You had no pleasure.
- 8. Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered 9. then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. **10. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.** Heb 10:5-5; 8-10) NKJ)



29

JESUS CHRIST: OUR TRUE HIGH PRIEST AND MEDIATOR

- Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Heb 4:14,15 (NKJ)
- My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 1John 2:1-2 (NKJ)



30 SUMMARY TABLE: OT SACRIFICES AND CHRIST

OT Sacrifice	Purpose	Christological Fulfillment
Burnt Offering	Complete surrender	Jesus' full obedience (Phil. 2:8)
Sin Offering	Atonement for sin	Christ died for our sins (1 Pet. 3:18)
Guilt Offering	Compensation for guilt	Jesus bore our guilt (Isa. 53:10)
Peace Offering	Fellowship with God	Reconciliation through Christ (Rom. 5:1)
Grain Offering	Thanksgiving	Christ, the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

3 | THEOLOGICAL AND SALVIFIC IMPLICATIONS

Concept	Old Testament Sacrifice	Fulfillment in Christ
Atonement	Temporary covering of sin (Leviticus 16)	Final forgiveness (Hebrews 10:10-12)
Mediation	Priests and High Priest	Jesus the Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
Substitution	Animal bore sin	Christ bore our sin (Isaiah 53:5-6)
Blood	Symbol of life and atonement	Jesus' blood cleanses (1 John 1:7)

Implication Type	Old Testament Sacrifice	Fulfillment and Significance in Christ
<div>32</div> <div>Theological</div>	God’s holiness requires atonement for sin	Christ satisfies divine justice and reveals God’s mercy (Romans 3:25–26)
Salvific	Temporary covering of sins through repeated sacrifices	Eternal salvation secured through one sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14)
Christological	Shadow of the coming Messiah (types and symbols)	Jesus as the Lamb of God, High Priest, and final atonement (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:11–12)
Spiritual	Worship involved rituals, cleansing, and surrender	Believers now offer spiritual sacrifices (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5)
Psychological	Rituals provided temporary relief and assurance of forgiveness	Christ’s atonement brings lasting peace and cleanses conscience (Hebrews 9:14)
Ecclesiological	Centrality of the sanctuary and priesthood	Church as the spiritual temple; every believer is a priest (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Cor. 3:16)
Eschatological	Yearly Day of Atonement, ongoing sacrifices	Christ’s return completes the redemptive plan (Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 5:6–10)



33

KEY POINTS TO NOTE



34 I. THE NATURE OF DAILY SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The daily sacrifices, particularly the **morning and evening burnt offerings** (Exodus 29:38–42; Numbers 28:1–8), were central to the Israelite sanctuary system.
- They served as a **symbolic means** of maintaining the nation's continual atonement and relationship with God. However, these sacrifices **did not literally remove sin**.



35 BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

- Hebrews 9:9 - It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-(NKJ)
- Hebrews 10:4 – “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”



2.6 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST INTERPRETATION

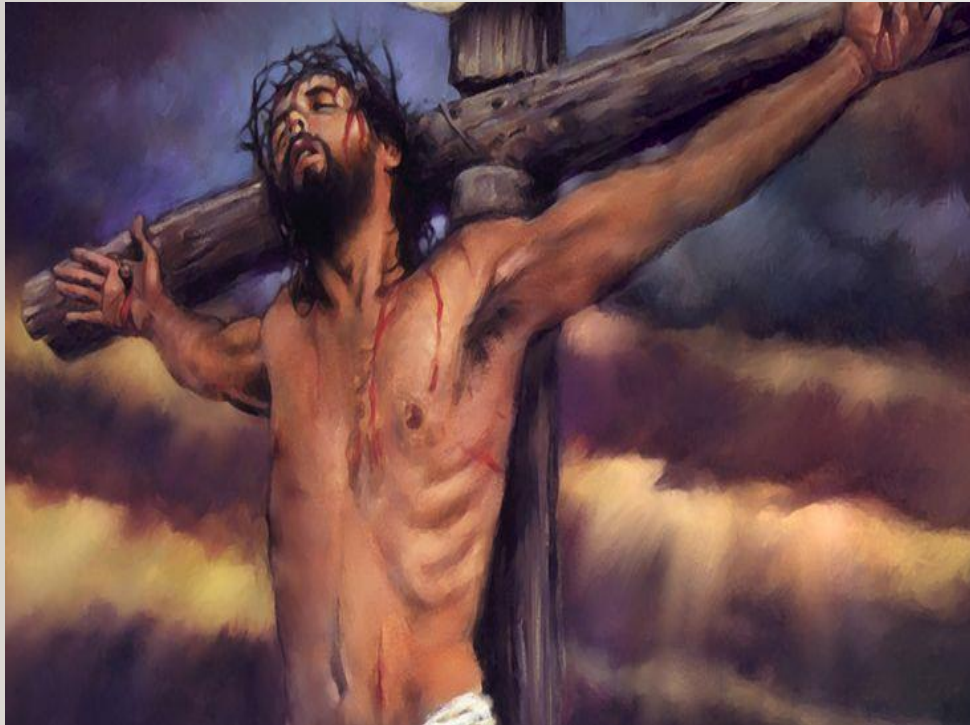
- Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Old Testament sacrificial system was typological—a shadow of things to come, pointing forward to the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ.
- **Key Points:**
- **Temporary and Symbolic:** The daily sacrifices symbolized the transfer of sin but could not cleanse the conscience or provide full atonement.
- **Educational Purpose:** The sacrificial services were meant to teach the **seriousness of sin** and the **need for a divine Substitute**.
- **Christ's Fulfillment:** Jesus Christ, as the **Lamb of God**, fulfilled all types and shadows (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:1-14).
- **“The whole sacrificial system was a shadow of the sacrifice of Christ.” — *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 932.**

37 3. ELLEN G. WHITE ON THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

- Ellen White consistently affirmed that the sacrificial system was **temporary** and **terminated at the death of Christ**, who fulfilled its **types and symbols**.
- **Temporary and Preparatory**
- “The sacrificial offerings were ordained by God to be to man a perpetual reminder and a penitential acknowledgment of his sin and a confession of his faith in the promised Redeemer.”— Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 68
- “The ceremonial system was made up of symbols pointing to Christ, to His sacrifice and His priesthood. The types and shadows of the sacrificial service were to pass away at the death of Christ.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 165

38

3. ELLEN G. WHITE ON THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM...



TERMINATION AT THE CROSS

“When type met antitype in the death of Christ, the sacrificial offerings ceased.”
— *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 189

“At the moment when Christ died... the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed.”
— *The Desire of Ages*, p. 756

39 4.THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

- Ellen White and the Adventist Church affirm that Christ's sacrifice is complete, final, and all-sufficient.
- "By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ... His life becomes our life." — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 311
- "The offering of beasts could not satisfy the demands of God as a sacrifice for sin. Only the sacrifice of Christ could bring salvation to the sinner." — *Early Writings*, p. 149
- "Christ's sacrifice is all-sufficient. He made a complete offering for sin." — *Review and Herald*, May 30, 1899

40

SUMMARY

Aspect	Old Testament Daily Sacrifices	Christ's Sacrifice
Function	Symbolic, instructional	Real, effectual
Nature	Temporary, repetitive	Once-for-all, eternal
Efficacy	Could not remove sin (Heb. 10:4)	Fully removes sin (Heb. 10:10-14)
End	Ended at the cross (Matt. 27:51)	Continues through His heavenly ministry

41

CONCLUSION

- Sacrifices reveal the seriousness of sin and God's plan for redemption.
- The Old Testament sacrificial system was a shadow of the perfect sacrifice.
- Christ is the ultimate fulfillment—our High Priest, our Lamb, our Mediator.



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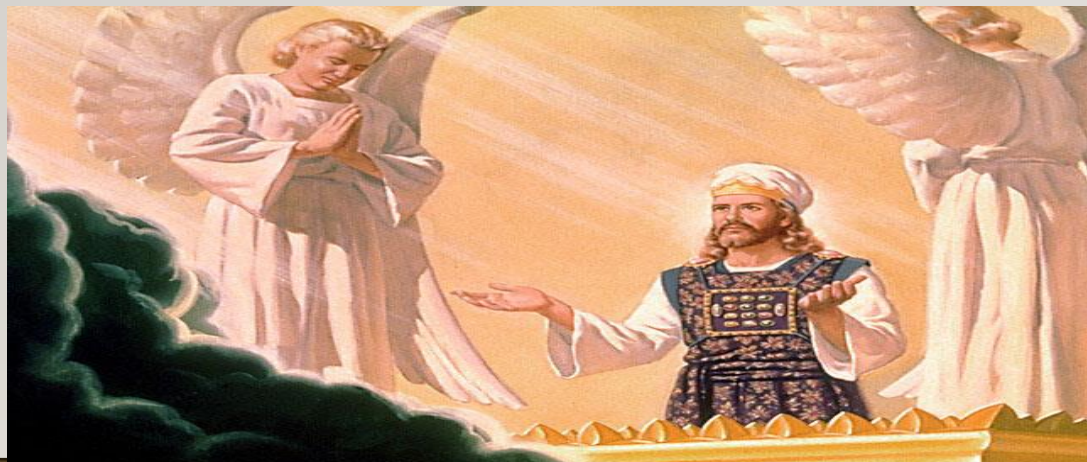
CONCLUSION...

- In Seventh-day Adventist theology, the sacrificial system of the Old Testament is viewed as a divinely instituted framework that reveals both the gravity of sin and God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ.
- Rooted in the covenantal relationship between God and Israel, the sanctuary sacrifices were not merely ceremonial but deeply symbolic, pointing forward to the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



43

CONCLUSION...



- The detailed rituals, from the daily offerings to the annual Day of Atonement, served as types and shadows of Christ's high priestly ministry and atoning death.
- Adventists emphasize the sanctuary as both a historical institution and a prophetic model of salvation history, culminating in the heavenly ministry of Christ as our High Priest (Hebrews 8–10).
- This understanding affirms that the Old Testament sacrifices were preparatory, leading to the once-for-all, perfect sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 9:11–14).

CONCLUSION...

- In Seventh-day Adventist theology, the daily sacrifices in the Old Testament **did not remove sin**, but **pointed forward** to the true Sacrifice—**Jesus Christ**.
- Ellen White confirms the **temporary** and **typological** nature of the Israelite sacrificial system, which **ended with the death of Christ**, whose **sacrifice is sufficient** for all time and for all people.
- This understanding underscores the depth of the **gospel and God's redemptive plan**, fulfilled in Jesus, our **High Priest and Lamb**.

45

THE END

