



NOT WITHOUT BLOOD

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The Signpost

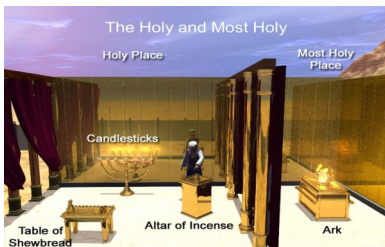
Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:6-7 (NKJV)

The Two Parts of the Tabernacle

In the Old Testament, there were two parts of the tabernacle which stood out: The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. It is these two parts of the tabernacle that are referred to, in our opening Scripture, as the first part and the second part. The Holy Place was accessible to the priests on regular basis. They went there always to perform services. In contrast, the Holiest Place was inaccessible to all. The Most Holy Place, which represented the presence of God, was accessible only to the high priest once a year. On the tenth day of the seventh month, the high priest entered alone the Holiest Place, always with blood, to offer for himself and for the sins of the people.



The Old Covenant Ordinances, Symbolic

The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

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.

Hebrews 9:8-9 (NKJV)

Almost, if not all the ordinances and ceremonies, under the Old Covenant, were symbolic. Although they were

things in themselves, they were signs that pointed to other things. These symbolic ordinances were necessary to restrain the people from sinning since the true way to God, forgiveness of sin and salvation was yet to be revealed. This is true in that the high priest who offered the sacrifices was himself not made perfect because his conscience still condemned him. Outwardly, they seemed clean and forgiven, but inwardly, they were not.

We can glean the following truths from what we have discussed so far:

- ◆ The Old Covenant sacrifices themselves could not save the people.
- ◆ Access into God's presence, forgiveness of sin and salvation are possible only through blood.
- ◆ The penalty for sin is death.

The Old Covenant Sacrifices Themselves Could Not Save the People

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

Hebrews 10:4, 6 (NKJV)

The purpose of the Old Covenant sacrifices was to point the people to the true way of salvation, even Christ. The sacrifices themselves could not save anyone. These sacrifices and ceremonies were appointed by God and the people of God were commanded to observe them. However, there is no salvation in them.

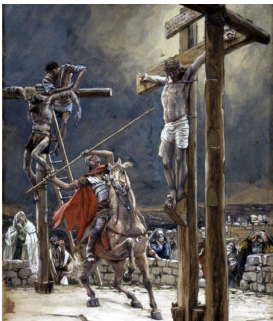
Similarly, there is no sacrifice, any good work which you can do that will save you. God commands and teaches us to do good works, and we must obey, but there is no salvation in them. Your good works, however beautiful and glorious, cannot save you. Prayer, church attendance, Bible studies and other works may make you more receptive to receive the gospel and serve as a means to your salvation, but the works themselves cannot save you.

The Scripture says, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5, NKJV)*

This means that the cause, and the only cause of salvation is God’s mercy and grace. The process of salvation is regeneration and sanctification, and the agent is the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, everyone who depends on his own good works for salvation is lost forever.

Access to God, Forgiveness of Sin and Salvation Are Impossible Without Blood

In Eden, before the Fall, Adam and Eve had full access to God. They could approach God and communicate with Him any time they wanted. However, after they sinned, God sacked them out the Garden of Eden and restricted their access to Him by placing a cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life (See Genesis 3:24). Since then, access to God, forgiveness of sin and salvation have always been through blood.



When God covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve, it was “not without blood” (See Genesis 3:21). The animals, from whose skins the cloths were made, had to be killed.

The first acceptable act of worship was also “not without blood” (See Genesis 4:4). After the Flood, Noah offered burnt offerings to God; there too, blood was shed (See Genesis 8:20-21). Isaac, the promised seed lived because blood was shed in his stead (See Genesis 22:13). The deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt was also “not without blood”. “By the sprinkling of the door frames of the Israelites with the blood of the Paschal lamb, and by the institution of the Passover as an enduring ordinance with the words, *‘When I see the blood, I will pass over you’ (Exodus 12:13)*, the people were taught that **life can be obtained only by the death of a substitute**” (Andrew Murray).

Under the Old Covenant, the high priest dared not to enter the Holiest Place without blood. But as the blood of bulls and goats were mere shadows and pointed to the true Sacrifice on Calvary, no one can approach God, obtain forgiveness from Him and be saved without Christ. The only sacrifice which can appease God’s anger and atone for our sins is Christ’s. Hence, salvation is through Christ, and Him alone. There is no approach to the Father outside

Christ (See John 14:6). Countless people in the world know this truth. But [the question is] how many of them believe and act upon it?

The Penalty for Sin Is Death

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 6:23; 3:23 (NKJV)

If all (including you) have sinned and the wages of sin is death, then you are marked for destruction unless you are delivered. Under the Old Covenant, the animal that was killed for sin offering replaced the people. Thus, the death of the animal was, in a sense, the death of the people. Whoever you are and whatever kind of life you are living, if you are without Christ, your fate is eternal death (See Revelation 20:10, 14, 15).

Beloved reader, do not be deceived: **God always punishes every sin.** Let me humbly and boldly at the same time add that God never forgives anyone without punishment. If God were to forgive any kind of sin without punishing it, He would cease to be God. The punishment may not be inflicted on the offender himself, but it surely takes place. Under the Old Covenant, the sins of the people were punished in the sacrificial animals. Under the New Covenant, all the sins of the world are punished in Christ. Jesus Christ died for the sins you have committed, those you are committing and the ones you will commit.

God forgives us by punishing our sins in another. On Calvary, all your sins were punished in Christ. Jesus’ last words on the Cross were these: *“It is finished” (John 19:30)*. He has paid for all our sins. But you must understand that the work of Christ applies to only those who believe Him as Lord and Saviour, and accordingly live their lives in obedience to Him.

Beloved reader, if you are not born again, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved! If you are already born again, live for Him as your Lord.