

## THE BLOOD ATONEMENT : IN JESUS' OWN WORDS : PART 1

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Published On : October 4, 1997

Last Updated : May 12, 2018

The Importance Of Christ's Death And Resurrection, Jesus Gave His Life A Ransom For Many, Jesus' Announcement And Incident In Nazareth, Christ Liberated Us From Death And Sin, Moses' Far-Reaching Prophecy Concerning Jesus, Apostle Paul: Bought With A Price, Message Of Jesus' Final Passover Meal, Jesus's Body Was Broken For Our Healing And Resurrection, Resurrected The Third Day, Our Resurrected Bodies: We Shall Be Like Him, Without Shedding Of Blood There Is No Remission Of Our Sins, Christ Shed His Blood For Atonement And Propitiation Of Our Sins, Jesus Repeatedly Spoke Of His Coming Death, Isaiah Was Keenly Aware Of The Suffering Messiah, Jesus' Global Vision

I think we can all agree that it is very important that we as Christians truly understand the Plan of Redemption, and that we have a strong foundation in God's Word upon which to stand during times of doubt and testing. While I have explained God's Plan of Salvation quite fully in other articles such as "Message to the World", "Not Everyone is a Child of God" and "Marriage of the Lamb", which obviously includes delving into the topic of Christ's Blood Atonement on the Cross, I feel it is necessary to write yet another series which concentrates specifically on Jesus' own words regarding His approaching Death on the Cross, and His subsequent Resurrection. After all, it is this very act which is the pillar and foundation of our Christian faith.

Regardless of how many other things we claim to believe about the Bible, if we deny this one most important truth regarding Christ's Death and Resurrection, then we have really missed the whole reason for the many Old Testament prophecies which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Regardless of how much we fill our heads with interesting Biblical facts and figures, unless we have placed our faith completely in the Cross at Calvary, we are lost. After all, as Jesus said in

the Gospel of John:

". . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

The first two verses I would like to take a look at in this study are found in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark where the Lord says the following:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45, KJV

The usage of the word "ransom" is very important in these two key verses. The American Heritage Dictionary defines "ransom" in the following manner:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The release of a person or property held captive in return for the payment of a demanded price."

----- End Quote -----

What a fitting word to describe exactly what Jesus did for all of us. We were indeed dead in our own sins, and captives of the Devil to boot. However, through His loving Sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus freed us into the glorious liberties of the Children of God. Consider one of the early things that Jesus said when He began His ministry after spending forty days fasting in the wilderness area around the Jordan River:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

Luke 4:18, KJV

As you may recall, the Lord had gone into the synagogue at

Nazareth in order to teach, and He was actually reading from Isaiah 61:1. The Book of Isaiah is actually full of many verses regarding Jesus' ministry. A few verses later, and to the great surprise of those people who were present, Jesus then made the following shocking statement:

". . . This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."  
Luke 4:21, KJV

As you may know, the synagogue attendants were so offended by Jesus' words -- they considered it utterly blasphemous -- that they even attempted to throw Him off the top of a hill. This was Jesus' opening announcement so-to-speak concerning exactly what His ministry was all about. Similar to Moses of old, He had come to set the captives free. But unlike Moses who had primarily liberated the Hebrews in a physical sense from the bondage of Egypt, Jesus had come to fulfill the other half of God's plan. His main mission was to liberate all people everywhere -- and for all time, even those people who were not born yet, such as you and I -- in a spiritual sense from the bondage of death and sin. Consider how Jesus even referred to Moses when speaking to the unbelieving Jews:

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"  
John 5:46-47, KJV

Exactly what was it that Moses had written concerning Jesus? Well, almost two thousand years earlier, in a very prophetic statement regarding far future events, God had inspired Moses to say the following to the Israelites:

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require

it of him."

Deuteronomy 18:15-19, KJV

This is such a wonderful revelation, that it excites me just to write about it. In the Old Testament, we have the Lord's physical Liberator, and in the New Testament we have God's spiritual Liberator. How fitting then that Moses should join Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration in the Gospels. Exactly how did Jesus free us? As we have already seen, by providing Himself as the ransom for our sins; just as He said He would do in the previously-quoted verses from the Gospels. In fact, the Apostle Paul talked about and wrote about this very same thing. He informed his listeners and readers that we are all bought with a price; that being the Blood of Jesus Christ, as we see by the following group of verses:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

To further confirm exactly why He had to die on the Cross,

Jesus shared the following words with His Disciples during His final Passover meal -- that is, the Seder, or the Last Supper as some Christians refer to it -- the evening before His Crucifixion was to occur:

". . . Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

I believe that Jesus' words have a double meaning. First, as many of you will already know, the Lord's physical body was broken -- that is, whipped and then crucified on the Cross -- for the physical healing of our bodies. That is, for our many infirmities. Furthermore, by being tortured, and put to death and then being physically resurrected from the dead -- please note that Jesus still possessed a body of flesh and bones following His Resurrection, Luke 24:39 -- He became the FirstFruits of the Resurrection. In this way, He proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, that those people who believe in Him, will likewise someday experience the very same kind of

resurrection. Jesus spoke of His miraculous Resurrection on the third day in the following set of verses:

". . . An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Matthew 12:39-40, KJV

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

Matthew 16:21, KJV

"And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry."

Matthew 17:22-23, KJV

"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again."

Matthew 20:18-19, KJV

"And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it. For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him."

Mark 9:30-32, KJV

"And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall

spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."

Mark 10:32-34, KJV

"And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing; Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

Luke 9:21-22, KJV

"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."

Luke 13:31-32, KJV

". . . Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again."

Luke 18:31-33, KJV

"He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

Luke 24:6-7, KJV

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:45-47, KJV

As incredulous and unbelieving as they were, the Gospel of Matthew informs us that the chief priests and Pharisees were not willing to take any chances. Thus, they implored Pontius Pilate that he would allow them to place guards at the tomb site -- which he permitted -- as we see by these verses:

"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."

Matthew 27:62-66, KJV

Concerning our own bodily resurrection from the dead, God's Word clearly informs us that someday we shall each inherit a body very similar to the Lord's resurrected body, as we can easily determine by the following group of verses. I have placed some words in uppercase for the sake of emphasis, and to inspire your heart:

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:"

Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, WE SHALL ALSO BEAR THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY."

1 Corinthians 15:49, KJV

"WHO SHALL CHANGE OUR VILE BODY, THAT IT MAY BE FASHIONED LIKE UNTO HIS GLORIOUS BODY, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:2, KJV



"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved [meaning our physical body], we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

2 Corinthians 5:1-4, KJV

As Jesus explains in the previous set of verses taken from the Gospels, the truth of the matter is that our Salvation is actually two-fold. That is to say, it requires both the resurrection of our bodies, as well as the Salvation of our souls, or spirits. The Lord made it clear that His Blood was shed for the remission of our sins. As I explain in a number of other articles, from the pages of the Old Testament, to the very end of the New Testament, we are told that without the sacrificial shedding of blood -- first, by way of the sacrificial lamb or goat in the Old Testament; and then by way of Jesus Christ who is God's sacrificial lamb in the New Testament -- there simply can't be any remission of our sins. We are repeatedly informed that it is Christ's Blood alone, which was shed on the Cross at Golgotha, which cleanses us from sin. We must be washed in the Blood of the Lamb of God. For it is Christ's Sacrifice alone which propitiates -- or pleases and gains the favor of God -- as is made so evident by the following set of verses:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Hebrews 9:22, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:2, KJV

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his [Jesus'] blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"

Romans 3:25, KJV

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10, KJV

Throughout His brief three-year ministry, Jesus preached this same message of Atonement and Salvation over and over again, in which His own coming Sacrifice played a central role. For example, in John chapter six, we find Him again prophesying His own death, in order that we might obtain forgiveness for our sins, and Eternal Life as well. In John chapter ten, the Lord compares His approaching death to a shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. And in John chapter fifteen, Jesus describes the extent of His and His Father's great love for humanity. Consider the following group of verses:

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the

world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

John 6:51-53, KJV

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

John 10:11, KJV

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13, KJV

Turning to the Gospel of Luke, we again find Jesus speaking privately to His Disciples during His last Passover feast with them. In this case, He again informs His followers of His approaching death on the Cross, and the Atonement which must be accomplished through Him, as we see here:

"For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end."

Luke 22:37, KJV

In this particular case, Jesus is actually quoting from the Prophet Isaiah, who in the fifty-third chapter of his Book, describes the sufferings of Christ and His ultimate victory over death. From reading his writings, it becomes readily apparent that Isaiah was very much in tune with God's Plan regarding the Salvation of humanity. He knew that healing would come, and that forgiveness of sins would come, when the Lamb of God was counted amongst sinners -- that is to say, amongst the transgressors of the Law -- and crucified on a Roman cross. Consider the following verses. I have included chapter fifty-three in its entirety, because it is just so wonderful, and so prophetic:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:1-12, KJV

If there is one thing which becomes clear from the Gospels, it is that Jesus had a world vision. He knew full well in advance that His death on a Roman cross -- that is, being "lifted up from the earth" -- would result in forgiveness, redemption, liberation and Salvation for all men everywhere, if they would only believe in Him, and accept His loving Sacrifice as the only valid Atonement for their sins. That Jesus had such a global vision is made evident by verses such as the following:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

John 12:32, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17, KJV

"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

John 6:33, 51, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

John 17:18, KJV

"Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing."

John 18:20, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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## THE BLOOD ATONEMENT : IN JESUS' OWN WORDS : PART 2

Copyright 1994 - 2018 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : October 4, 1997

Last Updated : May 12, 2018

Misguided Followers Of Urantia Book, It Is Finished: Jesus Had To Complete His Mission, Jesus Fulfilled Requirements Of The Mosaic Law, One Blood Sacrifice To Abolish Them All, Why The Temple Veil Was Torn, Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice, A Testator Must Die In Order For A Testament To Come Into Force, Stubborn Jews Continued To Rebel Against God's New Covenant And Those Who Preached It, 70 AD: God's Wrath On Israel Jerusalem And The Temple, Jesus Freed Us From Heavy Burden Of The Mosaic Law, Will There Be A Third Temple In Jerusalem?, God's True Temple Of The Spirit, Christ Is The Chief Cornerstone And We Are Lively Stones, Jesus Is The High Priest Of God's Spiritual Temple, Beware Of A Jewish Deception, Christ: A Lamb Without Blemish Or Spot, Jesus Came To Fulfill The Law And The Prophets, It Is Impossible For Any Of Us To Keep The Entire Mosaic Law, The Law Was Our Schoolmaster To Bring Us To Christ, The Law Teaches Us What Sin Is And Shows Us That We Are All Guilty, Jesus Is The Righteousness Of God, We Are Now Dead To The Mosaic Law

Continuing our discussion from part one, sadly, and contrary to what is plainly taught in the Scriptures, there are some people -- such as those who blindly follow the deceptive and misguided teachings of the demon-inspired Urantia Book, which I like to refer to as the Unbelief Book -- who claim that the Lord did not have to die on the Cross. They erroneously state that Jesus could have lived out a normal human life span, and that our Salvation can be achieved through our forgiving each other alone.

As I said, this idea is in total contradiction to the verses I have presented thus far in this series. Jesus knew that He had to go all the way. He had to complete His mission. Even

when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, and facing a moment of weakness, Jesus still committed Himself to do His Father's Will. Everything would have been in vain if He had not done so. However, once the Lord knew that all had been completed, consider what His final words were as He hung dying on the Cross:

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, IT IS FINISHED: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."  
John 19:30, KJV

It was finished. It was over. He had done what He had come to do. It was not until that very moment when His life poured out of Him, that Jesus completely fulfilled the requirements of the Law. Until His innocent Blood was shed on the Cross, just like the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament era, His mission was not quite fulfilled. There was no chance of Salvation for us. There was no remission of sins until that point was reached. As we learned in part one, Jesus said:

". . . Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished."  
Luke 18:31, KJV

"For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end."  
Luke 22:37, KJV

As the Lord had said on a number of occasions, He had come to fulfill -- that is, to complete to the end, or to accomplish, from the Koine Greek word "pleroo" -- all of the requirements of the Mosaic Law. Jesus had come to put an end to the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament period, by offering Himself as the final Blood Sacrifice on the Cross. I believe that it is for this very reason that at the time of Jesus' Death on the Cross, the veil in Herod's Temple was ripped in half. God was giving a clear sign to the Law-bound Jews, that the day of depending on the Law -- that is, on the Torah -- for one's righteousness was over. The period of the Old Covenant or Old Testament was now over, and the era of the New Covenant had begun. Now they had no choice but to accept the Sacrifice of His beloved Son as the only valid Atonement for their sins, just as we do today thousands of years later.

As I explain in articles such as "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", in comparing Jesus' final Blood Sacrifice to the original tabernacle of Moses, and the yearly sacrifices which were performed by Aaron the High Priest and the priests who followed him in succession, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews likewise explains how these Old Testament rituals were merely a foreshadow of much better things to come. That is to say, they were a pointer to what Jesus would ultimately fulfill when He offered up His life as the Final Sacrifice for sin, once and for all. Consider the following verses:

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us . . . Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation . . . By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all."

Hebrews 9:11-12, 25-26, 28, 10:10, KJV

Notice the Apostle Paul's repetitive use of the word "once". He wants to make certain that his readers really understand this important point. He wants them to realize that Christ's Sacrifice is all it took. Therefore, there is no longer any need whatsoever for any blood sacrifice of any kind by anyone else, whether they are Jew or otherwise. Paul then continues by explaining how the shedding of Christ's Blood was in fact the Ultimate Sacrifice. It was -- and is -- much greater than any animal sacrifice which could possibly ever be performed by the high priests of the Old Testament period, or by any other party. That is why in the previous set of verses, Paul also says "by a greater and more perfect tabernacle". He is referring to Christ's body, just as the Lord referred to His body as a temple in the Gospels. So, let me offer a warning to you. If someday in the near future the Jews in Israel begin animal sacrifices once again, watch out! Why? Because



it will be a deception and strong delusion. Don't you dare fall for it! Paul wrote as follows:

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: HOW MUCH MORE shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 9:13-14, KJV

The Apostle Paul then goes on to explain that in order for God's New Testament, or New Covenant, to be valid, Jesus had to die on the Cross first. There was no other way to activate or bring into force the New Agreement that God the Father was making with the world, except through the shedding of Jesus' Blood on the Cross. Just as occurs today with a legal will, the testator -- meaning Jesus in this particular case -- had to shed His Blood and die first, before the testament could be executed. Thus Paul writes again:

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Hebrews 9:15-17, KJV

Please note that for the sake of emphasis, I have chosen the key verses in the previous Bible quotes. I really encourage you to read the ninth and tenth chapters of Hebrews in their entirety in order to obtain a fuller understanding of what Paul is saying. In fact, it wouldn't hurt to read chapters eleven through thirteen as well, because they also contain a number of verses where the Apostle Paul continues to discuss Moses, the sprinkling of blood, Jesus' Blood Sacrifice, the New Covenant and Jesus becoming our final High Priest. It is very educational, and will help you to even better grasp the amazing links between Old Testament rituals, and what Jesus accomplished for us in the New Testament.

As I explain in a number of other articles, despite Jesus'

own testimony and dire warnings, not to mention the words of the writers of the Epistles, due to the hardness of their own stubborn, rebellious hearts, many of the Jews still did not get the point. They continued to resist the Gospel, and even fought against those brave Disciples who faithfully preached it. As one example, consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to the Thessalonians regarding the ungodly Jews who continually tried to hamper the preaching of the Words of Life:

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, KJV

That is why about forty years later, in fulfillment of Jesus' own words in the Gospels regarding the approaching Wrath of God, and the desolation which would follow, God allowed the legions of Roman, led by General Vespasian under the orders of Emperor Nero -- and later led by Vespasian's son, General Titus -- to swoop down from the north, and totally conquer the land of Israel. As some of my readers will know, during a major campaign referred to as the seven-year First Jewish Roman War, Herod's Temple and Jerusalem were left in ruins. As I said, I discuss these historic events in much greater detail in some of the other articles which you will find on the Bill's Bible Basics website.

But the main point to consider here is that the Lord brought a very forceful and complete end to the false religion of the Jews, which centered around keeping the Law -- which no one could really do anyway -- and animal sacrifices. As I explain in other articles, the Jewish religious leaders used the Laws of Moses as an extremely heavy yoke and burden to keep the common people under their thumb. That is why they -- meaning the scribes and Pharisees -- hated Jesus when He taught such things as the following. They didn't want the people to be free of their legalistic yoke, because that is what kept them in power:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."  
Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."  
John 8:31-32, 36, KJV

But God won in the end. Thus, for two thousand years now, the Jews have been without their beloved temple; even though they were given several opportunities to build a new one over the years. From what I recall reading a number of years ago, each time the Jews endeavored to build a new temple, God simply confounded their efforts. In fact, contrary to what many of my Christian brethren believe, as I explain elsewhere, I am not convinced at this current time that God is ever going to allow those stubborn Jews to build another temple. As I have fully explained many times now, the true Temple of God is a Temple of the Spirit. Furthermore, Jesus Christ -- who is the slain Lamb of God -- is likewise the Chief Cornerstone of this spiritual Temple. Not only that, but we are also lively stones in it as well, because God's Spirit dwells within us when we accept Christ. This truth is made evident by verses such as the following:

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."  
Luke 17:20-21, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."  
John 2:19-22, KJV

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT and in truth."

John 4:21-24, KJV

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Romans 8:9-11, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ . . . Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLETH IN YOU? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

1 Corinthians 3:11, 16-17, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved [meaning our body of flesh], we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:19-22, KJV

"And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; WHOSE HOUSE ARE WE, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

Hebrews 3:5-6, KJV

"Ye also, as LIVELY STONES, are built up A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:5-9, KJV

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which

is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

Revelation 21:22, KJV

In stark contrast to the previous set of verses which clearly describe the True Temple and Church of God, now consider the following verses which reveal God's displeasure with -- and lack of desire for -- physical temples and church buildings. The message is very clear, in my view:

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

Isaiah 66:1, KJV

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 5:31, KJV

"Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these."

Jeremiah 7:4, KJV

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."

Hosea 8:14, KJV

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"

Acts 7:48-49, KJV

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"

Acts 17:24, KJV

"And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?"

2 Samuel 7:4-7, KJV

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"

1 Kings 8:27, KJV

As we briefly discussed in previous paragraphs, not only did Jesus' final Sacrifice do away with and replace all former blood sacrifices of the Old Testament period, but in similar fashion, He instituted a new priesthood in which He Himself is the High Priest over this spiritual temple. Again, this fact is confirmed by Scriptures such as the following:

"For verily he [Jesus] took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:16, 17, KJV

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;"

Hebrews 3:1, KJV

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:14-15, KJV

"Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made

an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 6:20, KJV

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"

Hebrews 8:1, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;"

Hebrews 9:11, KJV

So if we Bible-believing Christians form God's new spiritual temple as the previous verses clearly state, and if Jesus is the High Priest within this new spiritual temple, then as I mentioned earlier, if despite my expectations, the Orthodox Jews ever do manage to rebuild their temple, appoint a high priest and a Levitical priesthood, and again initiate blood sacrifices, I am convinced that it will be a complete farce. It will be a complete and utter abomination to God. It will be a terrible lie and a deception. It will be a continuation of their blasphemy against God and the Sacrifice of His dear Son, Jesus Christ. It will be just like the scribes and the Pharisees of old who in vain endeavored to establish their own righteousness by the Law, without Christ. However, as the Apostle Paul wisely wrote:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:1-4, KJV

Based on my understanding of the previous verses regarding the true nature of God's Temple, and His chosen High Priest, I do not believe that God wants or requires any more blood sacrifices from the Jews; because as we have clearly seen by way of this series, Jesus has already paid the ransom price in full for our Salvation, plain and simple. Furthermore, God does not require another temple, or even another high priest,



because He already has both. Whatever you do, please do not simply brush aside my warning; because as some of you already know, right now there are in fact many deceived, pro-Israel Christians who would believe in this lie, if it were to come to pass sometime in the near future.

To reiterate one of our key points, Jesus came to fulfill -- or to meet the requirements of -- the Mosaic Law. Through His Perfect Sacrifice as the unblemished, spotless Lamb of God, He accomplished what we can never do ourselves. He opened the way for us to receive forgiveness, redemption and Salvation, and to inherit Eternal Life. As the Apostle Peter writes in his first Epistle:

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

1 Peter 1:18-19, KJV

Please note that in the previous verse, and as also occurs in other verses which are found in the Scriptures, the word "conversation" is derived from a Koine Greek word which actually means manner of life, conduct or behavior. It is not referring to holding a verbal conversation. In short, Jesus put an end to the requirements of the old Mosaic Law for Salvation, and introduced the Law of the Spirit. Jesus brought us under the umbrella of God's Grace, so that we no longer have to try to earn our Salvation by the works of the Mosaic Law and its harsh mandates. For example, recall that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says the following:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

Matthew 5:17, KJV

As we have already learned from earlier paragraphs, that is exactly what Jesus did. He accomplished what He set out to do. That is precisely why after He had risen from the dead, and had accomplished all things according to His Father's Perfect Will, Jesus said the following when He appeared unto His Disciples:

". . . These are the words which I spake unto you, while I

was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

Luke 24:44, KJV

So, because Jesus already did it for us, we don't have to do it ourselves; not that we could do it anyway. After all, as the Apostle James writes in his Epistle, it is impossible for any of us to observe and keep the entirety of the Mosaic Law. We simply can't do it; and that makes us guilty as charged:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

James 2:10, KJV

You see, that was in fact the purpose of the Law. As Paul so clearly explains to us, it was our schoolmaster. Not only to show us what sin is, but also to show us that we are guilty as charged, as we see by the following verses:

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

Galatians 3:24-25, KJV

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I HAD NOT KNOWN SIN, BUT BY THE LAW: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

Romans 7:7, KJV

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"

Romans 3:19-21, KJV

Do you understand what Paul means by that last sentence? He is talking about Jesus; just like what we read a minute ago in Luke 24:44. How do we know this? Because Jesus is the revealed -- or manifested -- "righteousness of God" which was concealed in the Mosaic Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament era. Scroll back and read that verse again if you

have to. In that same Epistle to the Romans, Paul confirms that through our faith in Jesus' death on the Cross, we are now dead -- that is, freed, liberated -- from the bondage of trying to keep the Laws of Moses in order to obtain our own Salvation. As he wrote in Galatians, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. That is, we are no longer under the Law, because we have come to faith in Christ:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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THE BLOOD ATONEMENT : IN JESUS' OWN WORDS : PART 3

Copyright 1994 - 2018 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : October 4, 1997

Last Updated : May 12, 2018

We Are No Longer Under A Schoolmaster, Christ Has Liberated Us From The Bondage Of The Mosaic Law, Parallel Ministries Of Moses And Jesus, A Prophet Like Unto Me, Jesus' Crucifixion Was Predetermined From The Foundation Of The World, We Were Predestinated To Salvation From The Foundation Of The World, We Are Now Saved By God's Grace Alone Through Faith In Jesus, Grace: Gift Received At Christ's Expense, God's Unmerited Favor, For All Have Sinned, Modern Unbelieving Jews, Jewish Blindness And Legalism, No Man Is Justified By The Law, Saved By God's Grace Alone Or By Our Own Good Works?, Don't Resist God's Spirit, God's Longsuffering And Desire For Repentance And Salvation, We Shall All Give Account To God, Reading List

As I concluded in part two, the Apostle Paul informs us that the Mosaic Law was our schoolmaster to show us not only what sin is, but also to show us that we are guilty as charged. Its purpose, Paul tells us, was to bring us unto faith in Christ, so that we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Paul then explains that Jesus is the revealed -- or manifested -- "righteousness of God" which was witnessed by the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament era. Finally, because we have now come to Christ, the Apostle tells us that we are now dead -- or freed, liberated -- from the harsh bondage of trying to keep the Laws of Moses in order to obtain our Salvation. Let me share those verses with you one more time to refresh your memory:

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."  
Galatians 3:24-25, KJV

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I HAD NOT KNOWN SIN, BUT BY THE LAW: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."  
Romans 7:7, KJV

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"  
Romans 3:19-21, KJV

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."  
Romans 7:4, KJV

In part one of this series, I briefly explained to you the parallels between Moses' ministry and Jesus' ministry. In fact, we even saw how Moses prophesied regarding how in the far future, God would raise up another Prophet similar to

himself; that, of course, being Jesus. Moses and Jesus both spoke of how they each played a vital role in the Salvation of humankind. Moses brought the Law of Commandments -- that is, the Torah -- to carry the Old Testament Jews up to the time of Christ. Then Jesus, through His predestinated death on the Cross, and the shedding of His own innocent blood, introduced the New Covenant and the Law of the Spirit. As we have already seen, the Apostle Paul confirmed these truths, and preached regarding this same issue many times during the course of his ministry to the flesh Jews. Peter and Stephen were likewise familiar with this vital connection to their distant past, and also pointed back to Moses in two of their dissertations, as we see by the following verses:

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

Acts 3:22-23, KJV

"This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear."

Acts 7:37, KJV

Regarding Jesus' death on the Cross being predetermined, or predestinated, you may recall that in chapter thirteen of the Book of Revelation, where he describes the reign of the Beast and the False Prophet, the Apostle John employs the phrase "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". In this way, John demonstrates that the Lord's death on the Cross was foreordained since the beginning of the world. In fact, there are a few other verses in the Scriptures where we are not only told that Jesus was predetermined to die on the Cross for the sins of the world, but that we too were predestinated from the foundation of the world to become God's adopted sons and daughters. Consider the following verses and be encouraged:

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

Matthew 25:34, KJV

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:48, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"

1 Peter 1:18-20, KJV

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Revelation 13:8, KJV

Once Jesus had died on the Cross, once His precious Blood had

been shed for the sins of the world, He could then literally say, "The demands and requirements of the Mosaic Law have now been met. To obtain Salvation and Eternal Life, all one must do now is believe in my Sacrifice on the Cross. I have paid the price for you. I have paid the ransom." Thus, as I noted in part two, we were liberated from the harsh mandates of the Law, and Jesus brought us under the umbrella of God's Grace, where we so remain to this very day. This truth is made so evident by verses such as the following:

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

John 1:17, KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"

Romans 3:24-25, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

Romans 5:10-11, KJV

Many years ago, I learned an easy way to remember exactly what the word "grace" means. Perhaps it will help you as well to remember Who alone is the Author of our Salvation:

G = Gift

R = Received

A = At

C = Christ's

E = Expense

Exactly what does the word "grace" mean? Derived from the Koine Greek word "charis", it basically means that due to God's own lovingkindness and pleasure, we have become the recipients of his unmerited favor. More correctly stated, while God's favor may be unmerited by our own account, it has been merited through the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God who was slain from the foundation of the world. In short, we have received the righteousness which is in Christ, and this is what makes us worthy. Nothing else. We cannot claim any righteousness of our own. After all, the Law plainly declares that we are all sinners. We are unclean, and unworthy to stand before the Lord by our own accord. Consider the following verses:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."  
Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."  
Psalms 14:3, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"  
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"  
Malachi 3:2, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"  
Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

Sadly, as I pointed out in part two, in our modern day, the vast majority of flesh Jews continue to reject this eternal truth regarding the necessity of Christ's Atonement. Some modern Jews are even secular atheists. Even the ones who do adhere to some form of Judaism, particularly in Israel, tend



to be self-righteous legalists who continue to insist that one must observe the Mosaic Law in order to merit Salvation. This same infectious disease is widespread on the Internet and can be found in some of the social networks. I encounter their posts quite often, but I choose to ignore them, being as I learned long ago that doctrinal debates are usually an exercise in futility.

As I have already explained, because they reject Jesus Christ as their Messiah, they still rely upon their "good works" to save them, in total contradiction to all of the Scriptures I have presented in this series. For those Jews who fall under this delusion, the Grace of God is not good enough for them. They want to be able to take part of the credit for their Salvation. As the Apostle Paul wrote, they want to establish their own righteousness without Christ. However, it just is not possible, no matter how hard they try. As we discussed before, this is why the Orthodox Jews have been striving for literally decades to rebuild the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah in East Jerusalem. They have fallen under the foolish delusion that it is imperative that they re-institute animal sacrifices in order to please God. They are as deaf and blind as they were in Jesus' day and have learned nothing. What a tragedy.

However, what is also tragic is the fact that even some of our own Christian brethren have likewise fallen under strong delusion. Some churches preach a doctrine of Salvation which is an odd combination of Grace and works. They say, "Yes, we are saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ, but we still have to keep the Sabbath; or we have to do this; or we have to do that." In other words, what they are basically saying is that the Blood of Jesus Christ is not enough. They are indirectly saying that we have to help God save us. We have to add our works to God's Grace. I do not believe this for a minute. I believe that while our Christian works will demonstrate that we are truly saved, they are not what save us to begin with.

We simply cannot add to the righteousness which is gained through faith in Christ alone. Neither can we establish our own righteousness, as the Jews try to do. As I have pointed out so many times before, the Apostle Paul fought tooth and nail against this heresy. Over and over again he stressed the fact that righteousness cannot be gained by observing the Law. Righteousness only comes through faith in Christ.

Consider the following sample verses:

"And by him [Jesus] all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Acts 13:39, KJV

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Romans 3:20, KJV

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:4, KJV

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Galatians 2:16, KJV

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."

Galatians 2:21-3:4, KJV

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith . . . Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

Galatians 3:11, 13, KJV

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Galatians 5:4, KJV

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

Colossians 2:13-14, KJV

So as you can plainly see, the bottom line is that we either believe that we are saved by our faith alone in the precious Blood of Jesus Christ which was shed on the Cross; or else we believe that we are saved by our own supposed good works. In the case of the Orthodox Jews, that means observing the Laws of Moses. We either believe that it was indeed finished, and that nothing needed to be added to it when Jesus said "It is finished" on the Cross, or else we don't. There are simply no two ways about it. The Apostle Paul again clarified this point when he wrote the following:

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Romans 11:6, KJV

Just as we cannot permanently mix gasoline and water, or oil and vinegar, neither can we mix Grace and works. While we can try to forcefully mix such liquids, given enough time, as we all know, they'll eventually separate back into two distinct liquids. So it is with Grace and works. Our faith is either in one, or in the other. Where is your faith? Do you honestly believe that you are good enough to merit your own Salvation by keeping the Law? Do you really believe that you can prove yourself righteous before God without Jesus Christ? If you do, then you deceive yourself, and you call God's Word a lie. Please do not be like the unbelieving Jews of whom Stephen said the following just before they stoned him to death:

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

Acts 7:51, KJV

If you haven't yet accepted Christ's Atonement for your sins, please do not resist and fight against God's Spirit until it is too late for you. Rather, embrace the Scriptural truth which I have shared with you in this series. Please know that

as you read this series, you are being given a fair chance to accept Christ's Sacrifice as the one and only valid Atonement for your sins. Whether you realize it or not, at this very moment, God is speaking to your heart. He is reaching out to you. He wants to lift the legalistic load from your shoulders and give you His rest and His peace. It is not His desire for you -- or anyone -- to perish. He wants you to repent of your unbelief, to accept Christ, and to be saved. Consider these verses:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Romans 2:4, KJV

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8, KJV

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

1 Peter 1:3, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Acts 16:31, KJV

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:9-10, KJV

I truly pray that if you have resisted and denied the great Sacrifice which Jesus made on the Cross for your sins, that this message will prick your conscience and finally wake you up before it is too late. As you can see by the previous set of verses, God is very merciful. He lovingly and patiently waits for us to repent of our hard-heartedness and unbelief. However, He does not wait forever. Someday He will stand up and shake Himself off. When He does, the whole Universe is going to know about it. On that day, unless you have already repented of your unbelief, you are going to have to explain to Him why you fought against Him, and why you resisted the truth He tried to show you. You will have to give an account for your life. Consider the following verses:

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Revelation 20:11-13, KJV

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:14, KJV

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

Matthew 12:36, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of

his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"  
Matthew 25:31-34, 41, KJV

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."  
John 5:28-29, KJV

"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead . . . For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"  
1 Peter 4:4-5, 17, KJV

With these final verses, I will bring this series to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. Most of all, I pray that if you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that you will do so today. Repent of your sins, and be washed in the precious Blood of the Lamb. It is not too late.

If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+ or any other social network, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's

Bible Basics web server:

A Temple Veil, an Earthquake and a Centurion

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .

Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement

Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts

Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace

Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?

Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?

Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen

Marriage of the Lamb

Message to the World

Not Everyone is a Child of God

OSAS: Are We Once Saved, Always Saved?

OSAS: The Hebrews 10:26-27 Controversy

The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!

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