

The Offerings

This study reveals the deep meaning behind substitutionary offerings, that God gave to mankind to deal with mans fall, beginning in the Garden of Eden all the way to Jesus Christ who was God's permanent solution to the redemption of man and the restoration of the sons of God.

But let's start this study with a puzzle. We find in the book of John, John the Baptist when he sees Jesus declares him to be the lamb that takes away the sin of the world.

John 1:29 ¶The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

At first glance this scripture appears to be straightforward. We have probably heard this scripture many times before and have become comfortable with it thinking that we know what it means. But what did John mean the "lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world". What lamb was John referring too?

Well without a doubt Jesus in his death represented the Passover lamb. In fact that was why he was crucified on the feast of Passover. The apostle Paul tells us as much in

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

The strange thing is that the Passover lamb was not a sin offering. It was not offered in the temple. It was not killed by a priest, it was not offered on an altar. So how could Jesus be the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world? This study will explain this mystery.

We have to start by stating that the ceremonies and rituals that God gave to the Jews were in fact temporary models of the future final solution to man's fallen state. Of these the most important were the seven feasts or "Mow ed" which in Hebrew means appointments. On these feast days the children of Israel had an appointment with God".

This study is not about the feasts (see the study on the appointments). But in brief each feast of Israel mirrored a future literal fulfillment by Christ. And constituted models or foreshadowing's of Gods ultimate plan.

The first of the feasts or appointments started with "The Passover", which was of course instituted on the night God delivered them from Egypt, Then the feast of "unleavened bread". Then the feast of first fruits, these three began the Jewish religious year. Starting on the fourteenth of Nisan and were consecutive. Fifty days after Passover was the feast of weeks or better known as the feast of

Pentecost. About four months later on the 1st of Tishri was the feast of trumpets, followed ten days later by the most sacred of all for the Jews. The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippurim. And finally on the fifteenth of the month (Tishri) the last major feast, Tabernacles. In another study "The Appointments" we will go into more detail, but for now, we will say that all these feasts or appointments with God that the Jews symbolically celebrated, were designed to have a literal fulfillment.

Christ's death was the first of the actual fulfillments of the seven feasts, when he became the "Passover lamb". He also fulfilled the symbology of the subsequent feast of unleavened bread, unleavened bread representing his original sinlessness. Speaking about this Jesus said in.

John 6:51 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.

He also fulfilled the feast of first fruits on the third day, when he was resurrected on the feast of first fruits. Paul explains

1 Corinthians 15:20 ¶But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Fifty days later on the feast of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given and the church as we know it was born. Another literal fulfillment (as the law was given to Moses fifty days after the exodus). So four of the seven feasts can clearly be seen to have a literal connection far beyond their symbolic practice in the Old Testament.

Now we presently await the last three, starting with the feast of trumpets which could likely be the rapture or catching away of the church. It was on this day that ceremonial trumpets were blown, which heralded the beginning of the Jewish Secular New Year in the month of Tishri. This started the countdown to the Day of Atonement. The ten days of "awe" as the Jews call them.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trump** of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

The last two feasts then will be completed in heaven. We will come back to them later in this study. So now let us turn to the problem that needed an answer. Man's disobedience. We must first lay some ground work about our creation heritage before we can discuss how sin brought mankind to its current condition.

Genesis 1:26 ¶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The bible says that Adam was created in God's image and after his likeness. The bible tells us that God is a spirit.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters..

If we were created in his image, then we must have been created first as a spirit or soul. By soul I mean the unique distinct identity that makes us individuals. God took this soul (Hebrew: nephesh) and "breathed" it in a body he had formed, and then covered it with his spirit.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Isaiah 30:1 ¶Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

So man when first created was the greatest of God's creation (see study on the Sons of God). This is also the reason he was created last! The truth is that mankind as we see him today is many orders of magnitude lower than his initial created state.

When God finished his creation of the first human Son of God, What God originally created was a three part being. Soul, body and spirit. Paul makes mention of this

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 ¶And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.(Paul here was speaking to those who had been "born again" in other words Sons of God , Indicating the nature of the original son of God)*

God told Adam that if he ate of the fruit he would surely die. That very day (Hebrew "yom"). What died was the spirit covering. Leaving a naked body encompassing a soul.

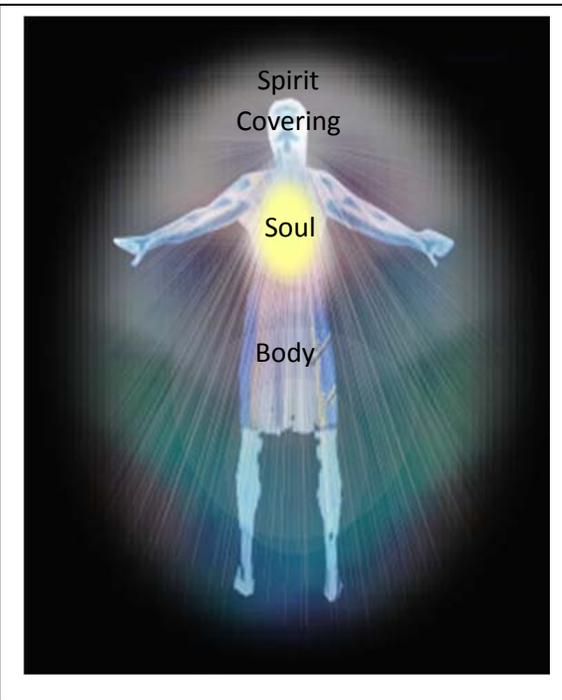
But Gods warning of death was actually for all the three parts! The Spirit, the soul and the body. The spirit covering died immediately and the body would be the next to die. Then finally the soul would also be subject to death in hell.

Before we deal with the temporary fix. Let us discuss the nature of Gods laws. The physical laws such as gravity are relatively easy for us to deal with because the effects are quite easy to understand and see. For example if someone jumps off of a cliff deliberately, few people would blame God because of his law of gravity. Why? Because we would all assume that it is well known that jumping off of a cliff

invokes the law of gravity leading to death. The law is self sustaining. By that we mean. God does not have to take action to maintain the law; it is in force from the time he created it.

The spiritual laws are just as powerful but for humans in our present state, not easily discerned. So when someone spiritually jumps off of a cliff, people tend to blame God as if he directly caused their demise. Just like the physical; law, the spiritual law was clear. "Do not eat of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and evil".

Once you have jumped off of a cliff, there is not much that can be done. If someone were at the bottom of the cliff and with the right equipment, like a gigantic cushion, they may be able to place it. When God clothed Adam and Eve with skins that was what God did. The spiritual law of perfection would now bring death. The skins represented a covering that partially fulfilled the law's requirement.



Man's spirit covering died that very day. Instead of being a three part being, "body soul and spirit". He became a body and soul. Adam was created a "Son of God" (Luke 3:38), but his son became just a "son of man". Because he could now only procreate what he had now become "body and soul!". From that point on until Jesus came there were only sons of men!

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

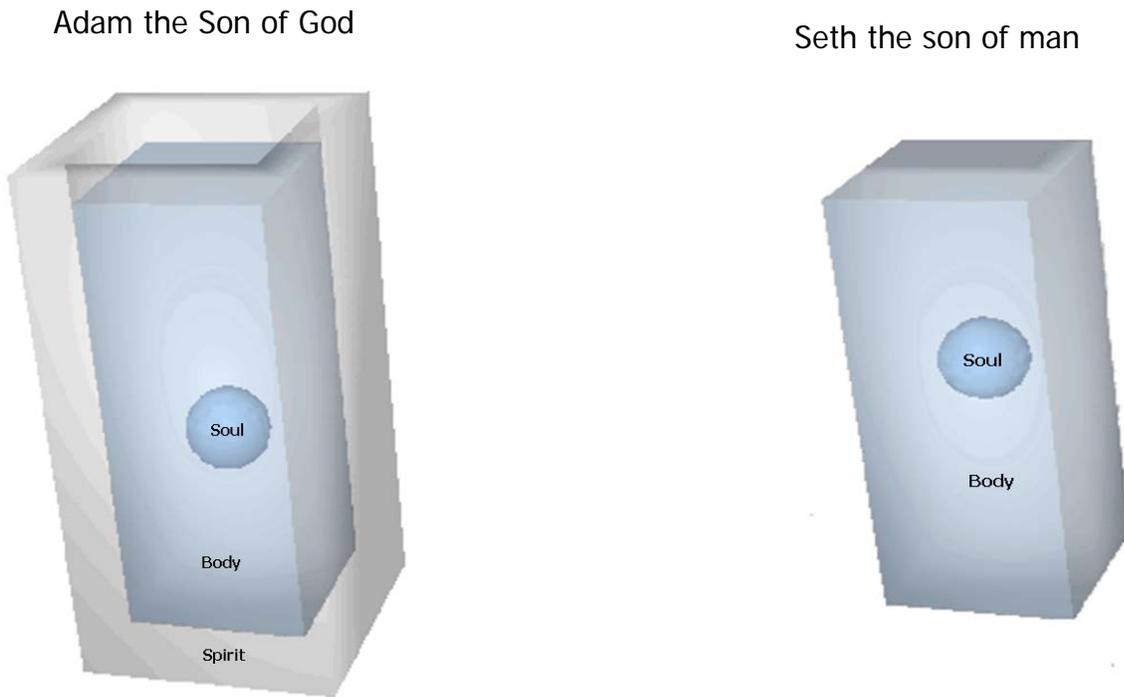
No longer able to come into Gods presence. No longer immortal, but destined to return to the dust. It was the loss of his spirit covering that separated man from God. The bible tells us in Exodus 33:20, that "no man" (Adam, flesh), can see God. Because God is a Spirit

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The knowledge that mankind gained by eating of the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil had a terrible side effect. It gave us a sin nature. It gave us the ability to make independent moral judgments. In other words decide "wrong or right" independent of Gods pronouncements. We see this clearly when God asked Adam "who told you were naked?" Yes they were physically naked but unashamed (covered with a spirit covering of light), God had created them that way, and pronounced everything "very good". Man had judged himself setting aside Gods Judgment and so came into condemnation.

God by his very nature, is not arbitrary, his attribute of justice demanded satisfaction for mans disobedience to a command that had been clearly and explicitly given. But his perfect attributes of mercy, grace, and love for his newest creation foresaw the possibility that free will might bring unintended disaster. God in his foreknowledge of all possibilities had prepared for just such an occurrence.

The bible tells us that Eve was deceived. Her sin of disobedience was based on believing or putting "faith" in the words of another creature above or before God. Adam on the other hand was not deceived. He had a choice



We see the first covering for was made by man, fig leaves, but it was not sufficient. With the ability to make moral judgments came the ability to experience guilt. Whenever we act against knowledge/truth it is the sin nature that produces this feeling.

This is most clearly modeled with a baby. A very young baby has no concept of "knowing good and evil" and consequently does not experience guilt. As the child grows, the "tree knowledge" comes into maturity, and the child sometimes exhibits a "guilty look" when watching the parent while acting contrary to a command, it is beginning to understand.

Two very important transactions happened when Adam and Eve sinned. Number one they broke a spiritual law. In other words they trespassed against God. Number two, they forfeited dominion over three areas.

1. Dominion of the Earth and of nature and the natural forces
2. Dominion over the animals and all living creatures
3. And most importantly **they loss control and ownership of their earthly bodies.**
(See our study on the sovereignty of God and the dominion of man).

How had they loss this dominion? And to whom did it now belong? Remember God had given them dominion of the earth and every living thing that creepeth upon the earth. This then included themselves, dominion over the flesh! The apostle Paul makes it clear to whom this dominion now belonged.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

By obeying Lucifer in the Garden they gave him dominion! This is how Satan came to have the power of death because unregenerated man is at his mercy! We are not in full control of our flesh or of its desires and cravings. This is how he causes death! He controls our flesh!

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

*Hebrews 2:14 ¶Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy **him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;***

The two transactions left mankind in the situation where, he had lost the spirit covering, His body now belonged literally to Satan, and was dying because of his disobedience to the word of God. What was left still partially under his control (it now had to fight the flesh) was his "inner man" or soul. Of his original threefold nature that he had been created with, Only the soul remained temporarily his(it was not lost to Satan at that time because it was not physical: did not creep upon the face of the earth). While the body still lived, it could stay there. Once the body died it could not stay in the physical realm, it had to go to the place of the grave.

Hebrews 9:27 and as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Adam and Eve tried to replace the spirit covering. The fig leaves may have covered externally, but somehow it did not make Adam and Eve "feel presentable", justified before God or in his heart.

If it had, Adam would not have still been hiding. He still felt naked even with the covering he had made. God also knew that it was not sufficient and clothed man temporarily with skins. (It must be noted that it did not say God killed an animal to provide a covering,. Most bible teachers assume that's what is meant. But a clue that the skin covering was not from an animal may be found in the fact that the Hebrew for Light pronounced "Ore" (which is what the original spirit covering manifested, and the Hebrew for "skin" is also phonetically the same, pronounced "ore").

We may ask what did the atonement covering achieve since the flesh still died?

The atonement by the death of an animal allowed the spiritual law to be temporarily satisfied by postponing the death of the soul.

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Matthew 10:28 and fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

In the Old Testament, the word "nephesh" is translated as soul, sometimes person and several other English words. But it is clear in this particular scripture that God is speaking of the personal life force, unique and distinct to each individual. The use of the term "the soul of the father" is not speaking of the person as a whole hence the pronoun "of". When taken with the New Testament uses such as Matthew 10:28, the scriptures show that the judgment for sin should have destroyed all three elements of mans makeup. Spirit, body, and soul.

The death of the spirit was immediate; the death of the body was delayed but not stopped because its dominion was now Satan's. The sin nature like a virus had fully taken hold. But because of the grace and mercy of God, the dying of the soul in the grave (sheol or hell) could be delayed. That is what the animal sacrifice achieved.

While it temporarily stopped the second death (revelation 21:8), what it could not do was fix the sin nature or the sins that came with it, or more importantly restore mankind to the status he had in the beginning. It could not renew the spirit covering or give back the immortal, perfect, superhuman bodies, God had originally created. But God knowing all things had prepared a plan of redemption.

The Plan:

God's laws, which proceed from his words, had said man would die for eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was a spiritual law and no more arbitrary or different than Gods other laws such as gravity.

The laws that God created are self sustaining. God does not “kill” someone who jumps off of a Cliff. All that happens is that the law takes effect. Similarly God did not “kill man”. Man broke the spiritual law and it took effect.

In fact when God does intervene in any of his laws, we call that a miracle. In the case of Adam and mankind, that’s what God decided to do. He figuratively placed a very large cushion at the bottom of the Cliff. There was still damage, but the law did not produce the same inevitable fatal effect it could have.

God’s solution:

There were three parties involved in mans loss of dominion. And there would of necessity be the same three parties involved in Gods solution and eventual restoration of the sons of God. These three were of course God, Satan and mankind. If God was going to fix the problem he would need to legally satisfy his own law requiring a death. He also needed to take back dominion of the earth and the natural forces from Satan. But what about “man’s body”, control of the flesh? We will show later that God decided to abandon it to Satan. It had become too corrupted, and was in fact unredeemable. the evidence of this is found right in the garden scene.

Genesis 3:22 ¶And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

The fact is God could have stopped the death of the body. But it would have been at the price of eternal slavery to the one who now “owned” it. Instead God gave it up. Paul speaks about this in several scriptures.

*Romans 8:10 ¶..... **the body is dead because of sin;***

*Romans 7:18 **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.***

*Romans 7:24 **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from **the body of this death?*****

What God decided to do instead was to launch a redemption project for the soul. The most important part of the original three part nature of man. At the appointed time God would take that soul and through a rebirthing process, make a new creation!

*20 For the creature was **made subject to vanity**, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

The word in the king James translated "vanity" is the Greek word *Mataiotes*, in this context means frailty or mortality. God decided to allow the sinful body to die "subjected the same in hope", so that we may get a new glorified body.

The death of the body was in fact a crucial part of Gods plan of taking back dominion. Because Satan had hoped to rule both the planet and the supernatural exalted bodies that God had originally given mankind (See our other study on a change of language). But by increasingly subjecting the flesh or body to "Vanity" i.e. decay, and eventually death, His plan of eternal dominion was stopped. All he was left with in the physical realm was puny bodies that lived shorter and shorter life spans eventually turning into dust!

*Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and **unto dust shalt thou return.***

The curse that God gave the Serpent(Nachash) was that the body he now controlled, would turn into dust!

*Genesis 3:14 ¶And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, **and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life (Adams dust)***

Letting the body die was part of Gods plan for denying Satan dominion over what he had gotten by deceit, in the end dust! God planned to give us new bodies fashioned again in his image!

*Philippians 3:21 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. ("**subdue all things" in other words take back the dominion!**)*

*1 John 3:2 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 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

If you begin to understand who has dominion of the body, then certain strange scriptures will now also begin to make sense.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Why did Satan want Moses body? Well the scriptures tell us that Moses did not die of old age he was as fit as when he started his task for God of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt forty years earlier. In other words the body could still be useful if God had permitted Satan to reanimate it. It would have been a powerful tool for deception. This had been one of Satan's plans all along and will be implemented during the tribulation with respect to the antichrist, the false Prophet and the image that was brought to life!

Now in the light of our study the foregoing scriptures concerning Satan's great interest in human bodies may have a new meaning.

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The long term solution for redeeming the dominion was first given by God in Genesis 3:16. In this verse is found the prophecy of the "the seed of the woman", the second son of God, the messiah who would fulfill what Adam did not.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

But In the short term God would have to allow Satan dominion over a decaying and dying body that still housed a very valuable soul that God wanted to redeem. And this body because of Satan's control would continue to break even more spiritual laws!

The other factor was that Satan was now not content with what eventually to him would become a pile of dust, but he also wanted control of the soul as well. The advantage he now had was that he could influence the mind/spirit /soul through manipulation of the flesh/body, making Gods plan of redemption much harder since God had decided to give mankind freedom of choice and not in general force his will on humans.

God's way was to temporarily satisfy the requirements of the spiritual laws. A life was required, God choose to allow an animal's life to stand in mans stead, until the right time for a permanent solution.

Now an angel could not do this or anyone but the lawgiver. Only the lawgiver can rule on what satisfies the requirements of the law!

When we see blood in any quantity, on a floor or on the earth, it is an indication that something or someone is in serious trouble or possibly dead. The average human being has about twelve pints of blood. The loss of 4 to 5 pints of blood will in most cases, mean death. So when that amount of blood has been shed, it represents a death.

But why did the law require blood? The bible tells us in the book of Hebrews 9:22 the following;

Hebrews 9:22 and almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

We can give some answers from what God and science has told us. The blood is the life force and therefore represents physical life. It carries everything that the cells need to live. Oxygen and food, it takes away the harmful waste and byproducts that the cells generate to live. It protects the body against harmful invasions by clotting at any open wound. There are for the average adult 100,000,000,000,000 cells in the human body. And all of them except for certain cells in the eye must have a blood supply to live!

Putting into action his plan to restore mankind into fellowship and full sonship, God instituted the ritual of animal sacrifice. The life being given, and the blood being shed instead of the death of the soul. The blood shed, was proof that a life had been given, so the full sentence of death on the soul could be delayed.

Leviticus 17:11 for the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Notice the scripture did not say atonement for the body or the spirit. It was not that powerful.

*Hebrews 10:4 for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
Hebrews 10:11 and every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

Let's lay out the issues that needed fixing. Man had a sin nature and was going to sin. When man died his soul was going to the grave. Satan had man's body. So God devised a system of offerings and sacrifices that would deal with these issues in a temporary way, until the permanent solution would be finished.

The regular sacrifices (those in the temple or tabernacle) acted as a covering. For mans current sins and prefigured in the final atonement ceremony (In heaven) the solution to the sin nature.

But these did not fix the problem of the soul's confinement in Sheol or the grave. God's plan of redemption for the soul was separate because the problem was separate. The soul in hell was only indirectly related to Satan's present control of the body. This was why the Passover ceremony was different and separate.

It was not for sins but was a payment, a purchase, redemption of the soul. It was in fact probably more important than the regular offerings and sacrifices as they just temporarily took care of current daily sin. And did nothing about the fact that the soul was still going to the Grave (see our three kingdoms study).

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The blood upon the lintel and the side posts was a token of life and of death. The destroying angel "passed over" the dwelling place where the blood was applied. The blood "redeemed" **the souls** of the occupants from death. The subsequent Levi tical offerings provided for different aspects of temporarily dealing with the sin nature and the sin products and guilt!

The Place of Judgment

As outlined earlier, mans sin was to be judged in three parts, Death from the presence of God (death of the spirit), Death of the body from the Kingdom of men (death of the flesh), and finally death of the soul in hell.

The literal place where Gods pronouncement of judgment was to be carried out is Hell.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

As mentioned before, the sacrifices of animals did not stop physical death. Hell is not the final judgment, but "a judgment". In the original Greek of Hebrews 9:27 the definite article "the" does not appear.

Hell is described in the bible as place of fire and burning.

Deuteronomy 32:22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Matthew 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

The Levitical Offerings

God's mercy allowed the substitution of animals in ritual sacrifice. In setting up the sacrificial system, God gave Moses detailed instructions which modeled all aspects of what man deserved and prefigured how the problem, the sin nature and the resultant sins would eventually be solved.

The model involved the tabernacle and all the rituals of sacrifice. The place in the tabernacle that the offerings were made was the Brazen (bronze altar). In the symbology, the metal brass represents Gods Judgment.

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived

The bronze serpent represented Gods Judgment when he sent poisonous serpents among them as a judgment after they used the "tree knowledge", independent judgment to question Gods actions through his servant Moses.

Numbers 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Brass was also used in other areas of the Tabernacle. The sockets of the posts rested on brass sockets. It could be said that the tabernacle rested upon Gods judgment.

The Symbolic place of Judgment

But the most important object of brass in the tabernacle was the brazen or bronze altar.



Exodus 27:1 ¶And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

2 And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.

The brazen altar was where the substitute for man symbolically suffered Gods judgment. One clue is that the fire on the brazen altar was never to go out.

Leviticus 6:12 And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings.

Just as the inside of the holy place and the most holy place modeled the heavenly tabernacle, **The Brazen altar modeled or symbolized the real place of Judgment, Hell !**

Hell would have been where the soul of man would have suffered torment. Hell is where Judgment starts, again in the model, the brazen altar is where symbolic judgment starts. We see this in the vision of Ezekiel where judgment is to be executed starting by the brazen altar!

*Ezekiel 9:2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and **they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar.***

3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;

4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

5 ¶And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

*6 **Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.** Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.*

Now let us examine in detail some of the offerings themselves.

The Five Offerings

1. The Burnt Offering
2. The Meal Offering
3. The Peace Offering
4. The Sin Offering
5. The Trespass Offering

Now that we have laid the groundwork we can turn back to the original mystery of why John the Baptist called Jesus “the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world”, we are only going to focus on those offerings that involve the sacrifice of a lamb since the others would not help us understand the puzzle and only those that involved the shedding of blood could atone.

The Burnt Offering

The burnt offering (Hebrew, Olah an offering made by fire).

Leviticus 1:1 ¶And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,
2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.
3 ¶If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.
4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

Under the Levitical law, the burnt offering had to be free of disease or blemish. The blood was sprinkled around the altar. The burnt offering was seasoned with salt and was a “sweet savor” (a cooked meal in other words) unto the lord and was to be “wholly consumed”. It was a voluntary offering.

Exodus 29:25 And thou shalt receive them of their hands, and burn them upon the altar for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour before the LORD: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD

The meaning of the burnt offering is very complex and profound. It was given in many instances and circumstances. The consecration of the tabernacle or priests required burnt offerings. It was also offered many times in association with the sin and trespass offerings.

It was not for specific sins. But had the attribute of "justification". It allowed the supplicant into Gods presence, made him clean, in effect **it was for the removal of guilt.(Towards GOD)** The particular burnt offering that draws our attention was that of the morning and evening oblation (two lambs). These lambs were for the nation as a whole and were not for specific sins but were instituted to address the guilt associated with sins.

The Trespass offering

Leviticus 14:25 And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

26 And the priest shall pour of the oil into the palm of his own left hand:

27 And the priest shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times before the LORD:

The trespass offering had to be without defect and unblemished just as the burnt offering. It was given for specific sins. Confession was part of the process, and as with almost all instances the sin had to be of an unpremeditated nature. Certain acts as in the case of hiding another's wrong were allowed for in the trespass offering, or of defrauding your neighbor.

It appears that although all sin is ultimately against God, some premeditated acts were atoned for if they were not directly against God in the first instance. We see this in the New Testament where we may obtain forgiveness if we forgive "those who trespass against us". So the trespass offering was primarily **for acts against our fellow man**

The Regular Sin Offering

The term "regular" is used here so as to distinguish it from the sin offering offered on the day of atonements (Yom Kippurim). Like all the other offerings the animal from the herd or flock, had to be free from defect and blemishes. **The sin offering was for unintentional sins against God(specific deeds).** The regular sin offering dealt with specific deeds that had come to be known.

The blood of the animal symbolized the proof that the debt had been paid and as proof, was sprinkled on the earth (one witness) and before the veil(witness two). The veil symbolizing the regency over the earth of the angels(embroidered on the veil were cherubim) . Witnesses were required in any legal transaction and also in this case. The ritual of sprinkling is seen as displaying the evidence. We can see from Genesis that the earth was a form of witness. God speaking to Cain, personified the earth as witness to Abel's blood.

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

The Day of Atonement and the Atonement sin offering(for the sin nature not specific sins)

Leviticus 16:5 ¶And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The sin offering was composed of BOTH goats!. They were to be no more than one year old.

Leviticus 16:8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

One goat was let go or "sent" to "azazel". The word translated scapegoat is actually a proper name in the Hebrew. Azazel is found in the book of Enoch. There he is portrayed as the leader of the rebellious angels. In other words it may be the proper name for Satan.

Satan(meaning adversary) has been called Lucifer or Light bearer from the Hebrew " Helel Ben Shacker, son of the dawn", But this would just be a title and not a name. The Yom Kippur ceremony symbolizes the penalty that man should have paid. One of the goats, bearing the sin sent to the wilderness to die, to the one (Satan, Azazel) who had the power over death(the penalty for sin).

POINT: The goat sent to Azazel represented the body (dead with sins anyway), and to which he legally had the right. The sins were "carried away" by the flesh! Upon which the high priest pronounced all the sins. This begins to explain why God let the body die; It was the only way to dispose of the sins! (Paul "the body is dead because of sin")

The other goat was killed to satisfy the one who's law was actually broken "ha shem". The goat to Azazel did not "pay" for sin. It just sent it to the one to whom it belonged.

It was the second goat that died that represented payment for sin. It represented the soul(not the body, which was the goat sent)I which belonged to God. The death of both goats “prefigured” how once the penalty was paid, God would be able to make a new creation thereby “fixing” the sin nature which was now dead (in the goat that was sent to azazel).

*.....he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy **him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**; Hebrews 2:14*

The atonement sin offering was the only sin offering that was for no specific sin. It was the only blood sacrifice that God designed to foreshadow the ending of **the sin nature**. The ultimate solution to the sin problem.

Revelation: The revelation is that the Yom kippur ceremony represents the point of Death, when the soul is separated from the body, the body is sent to the one to whom it belongs, carrying away the sins, the soul the other goat, returns to the one who gave it. To be held for resurrection in a new body at the real and final atonement ceremony in heaven as foreseen by John in revelation starting at chapter 4 (see forth coming study the ultimate nature)

The Passover lamb

Since the focus of Christ's death was that he was the Passover lamb. Let us examine the Passover ceremony.

*Exodus 12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:
 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.
 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:
 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.
 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.
 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.
 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.*

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The Passover lamb as pointed out before then, symbolizes redemption. When something is redeemed, it means bought back, paid for. The debt was for the life of the first born and from enslavement to the Egyptians.

*Exodus 6:6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and **I will redeem you** with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:*

*Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; **I will redeem them from death**: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine*

The new testament makes it clearer still that the Passover lamb was a payment that redeemed us.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

In revelation 5:9 the elders fall down before the lamb and proclaim that the Lamb "redeemed us".

In the Old Testament this is modeled in regulations regarding the cities of refuge and the "avenger of blood". If someone was guilty of killing another accidentally, or unintentionally he would be spared death and safe from the "avenger of blood", if he fled to a city of refuge and stayed there until the death of the High priest.

Joshua 20:6 And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the high priest that shall be in those days: then shall the slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.

This exactly shows the plan for the redemption of the soul from the grave (Sheol). This only applied only to the righteous dead ("those gathered to his people" not the unrighteous dead, those "cut off from his people").

Those that during their life on earth sinned because of the sin nature and the loss of dominion but had applied the available coverings (offerings) that justified them.

The righteous dead went to that part of the grave called Abrahams bosom. They were not in heaven and were not freed from the grave to go to heaven until the death of the true high priest Jesus Christ! Christ went to the Grave to free them (see our study on the three Kingdoms).

Review of the offerings and sacrifices

The burnt offering..... cleanses and justifies... deals with the guilt aspect of the sin problem

The trespass offering.....deals with specific sins mostly against our fellow man, deals with the sin product

The regular sin offering... deals with specific unintentional sin against God....deals with the sin product

The Passover Lamb.....deals with the ransom for the soul from death

The Atonement sin offeringTo deal with the sin nature

Jesus the fulfillment

Jesus we know was fulfillment of the Levitical system of offerings, but how that was fulfilled can be seen now in bringing the model of the offerings, with the reality of Christ's death.

Matthew 5:17 ¶Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

So Johns statement about Jesus as the lamb of God that taketh away the sin(sin nature) of the world would seem to be still a puzzle. Jesus symbolically fulfilled all of the offerings. The problem is that each had a fulfillment as a Lamb. The bible tells us that the atonement sin offering was two kids of a goat. Not from a sheep. In addition all the regular offerings only addressed the sin product(sins) not the sin nature.

Jesus as the Passover lamb

1 Corinthians 5:7 ¶Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Jesus is also the Lamb of the burnt offering

*Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

Jesus is the Lamb of the trespass offering

Leviticus 14:25 And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

2 Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

The meaning of the lambs with reference to Christ

The first lamb (Passover lamb) is a token of the new covenant (redemption of the soul: from death)

Psalms 49:15 ¶But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

The Passover lamb for us symbolizes redemption of the soul. That is what happened when Jesus went to the grave. Just like the scripture says that God redeemed them from Egypt, Jesus released those souls in hell. He redeemed them. The Judgments on Egypt was primarily upon their Gods. Their chief God was Osiris, God of the dead!.

Jesus was killed, as all of the symbolic lambs were, and executed judgment on the God of the underworld (Satan), then as Passover lamb he redeemed all the righteous dead.

*Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: **O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction:** repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.*

The second lamb (burnt offering) is a satisfaction of the blood debt (To God).

Genesis 8:20 ¶And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.

The third lamb (trespass offering)

Jesus fulfils this role as our high priest forgiving our present failings when we confess.

Revelation: In the Old testament no premeditated sins against God could be forgiven, or atoned for by any kind of sacrifice. Only unintentional sins. The great mercy and wisdom of God is seen in devising the trespass offering, which did allow forgiveness even of intentional sins if it was against our fellow man. This loophole, is what delivers us from the sins of the flesh which we give in to.

Because under the new covenant when Jesus(God), came as a man, even premeditated sins against Jesus(God) could be forgiven! Because he was a son of man!

*Matthew 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word **against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him:** but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*

Paul explains that he has entered in the heavenly tabernacle now to appear for us !

Hebrews 9:12 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.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

All these sacrifices dealt with two parts of the sin problem. The guilt and the sin product. This lets us know that there is yet to be a future fulfillment that finally deals with the sin nature. That will happen when the feast of atonement (Day of Atonement) has its own literal fulfillment in heaven.

It was revealed to Daniel that the final atonement ceremony was one of the six things God would do before the mystery of his purposes would be complete.

Daniel 9:24 "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to put down rebellion, to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.(NLT translation)

But how did Jesus fulfill the yearly atonement sacrifice when he is only called "a lamb" in revelation not a goat (the atonement sin offering)?. The bible gives us the remarkable answer, and the Key to the mystery

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

In exodus 12, God is giving instructions for choosing the Passover animal. What we do not realize is that the Passover "lamb" could be a lamb of the goats ! in other words a kid of the goats (the same as the atonement offering) !

The answer to the mystery is that the Passover lamb as seen in revelation is a lamb from the Goats. The proof is that it has horns (most lambs from sheep have no horns, nearly all goat kids have horns).

All of the previous offerings which were offered throughout the year were only presented to the earth and symbolically to the angels.

Only on the day of atonement was the sin offering taken all the way into the presence of the lord before the ark of the covenant.

And at the final atonement ceremony in heaven we see the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Revelation 5:6 ¶And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 6:1 ¶And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Revelation 7:14 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 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.