

DID YOU KNOW

How Jesus as High Priest Fulfilled the Sin Offering ???

On May 17 I asked, "DID YOU KNOW How Jesus, as High Priest, Fulfilled the Burnt Offering ritual in the Tabernacle (Temple)?" We saw how Jesus' fulfilled this portion of the Law when His crucifixion and death coincided with the morning and evening offering of the lambs in the temple. Today, we would like to return to Jesus' role as High Priest to see another hidden and beautiful truth you may have never heard.

I know you grow weary of hearing me say this, but it is the cornerstone of understanding and interpreting the Bible. Whenever we discuss an act of Jesus, we must always keep in remembrance why He said He came:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled". (Matthew 5:17-18)

The gospels are the records of how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies and every aspect of the Law given to Moses by fulfilling the role of the High Priest in the Tabernacle (Temple). In order for God to forgive Israel's sins for one year, it was necessary for the **High Priest** to perform a **SIN offering** and a **BURNT offering** on the Day of Atonement. The book of Hebrews tells us in several places that Jesus came to fulfill the role of High Priest and make one atonement for sins sufficient for all times. Therefore, during Jesus' earthly ministry, it was necessary for Him to parallel and fulfill every ritual being performed in the Temple.

As we have already covered how Jesus fulfilled the Burnt Offering at His crucifixion, we would now like to turn our attention to how He fulfilled the SIN OFFERING. The sin offering had two components. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest took the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, located directly over the Ark of the Covenant. Inside the Ark of the Covenant were the tablets of Law Moses brought down from the mount. The penalty for breaking the Law was death. However, when God looked downward and saw the blood between Himself and the Law; He vowed not execute the death penalty. This was just like the Passover in Egypt. Those that were behind the doors with the blood of the slain lambs were spared as the death angel passed and smote the first born throughout Egypt.

We've all heard this part of the story before, and in this DID YOU KNOW we will not discuss how Jesus fulfilled this part of the Sin Offering (presenting His blood on the Mercy Seat). In this study we will focus on the part often overlooked. In fact, I've never heard it discussed or explained in all my years as a Christian. **(Continued on back)**

The High Priest had to fulfill a **second part** of the Sin Offering to complete the propitiation of sins for one year. In addition to sprinkling the blood on the Mercy Seat, the High Priest also had to sprinkle blood on the horns of the altar at the entrance to the courtyard!

The brazen altar where the animals were sacrificed was the perfect picture of the cross of Calvary. The question then becomes, "if the altar represents the crucifixion cross, why did blood have to be sprinkled on it for the forgiveness of sins?" Jesus was a sinless man and did not need forgiveness of sins. **OR DID HE???**

Here is the part overlooked when we read the crucifixion story, and it is the result of not understanding the Law of Moses. There is a very good reason why blood had to be applied to the cross.

" And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabach Thani? which is, being interpreted, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15: 34)

It is often misunderstood why Jesus cried out. Jesus cried from a burden and pain He had never experienced, and it wasn't from the three nails: "HE WAS CARRYING UPON HIMSELF THE SINS OF EVERY HUMAN WHO EVER WOULD LIVE." He was paying the sin penalty for every sinner and the burden was unbearable to a sinless God. How was this world of sin to be removed from the savior? To remove the sins, the blood of the sacrificed lamb had to be sprinkled on the altar.

"But when they came to Jesus, and saw He was dead already, they broke not His legs; but one of the soldiers, with a spear, pierced His side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water.**" (John 19:33-34)

Only the blood of the sacrificed lamb could take away the sin. The sin of the world Jesus was carrying had to be removed once the debt was paid. As soon as He gave up the ghost, the soldier pierced His side with a spear and the blood was applied to the sacrificial altar. This was the reason Jesus' side had to be pierced. Only the blood of the true lamb of God could wash away the sins of the world.

Remember, this is only one part of the Sin Offering. Our savior's work was not completed on the cross. As the High Priest, He still had to sprinkle His blood on the Mercy Seat for the sin debt to be fully paid; but that is a lesson for another day.

So, DID YOU KNOW??? If you learned something new, today, please share it with others. If you would like to learn more Bible truths, why not attend Sunday School where dedicated, knowledgeable teachers will assist in your understanding of the Bible. Today's DID YOU KNOW (August 23, 2009) was presented by Bob Epperson, Sunday School Superintendent.