

DID YOU KNOW

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

If I asked, "why did Jesus come," a logical and common answer would be something like "to save the world." While this is true, the more direct answer is found in Matthew 5:17-18:

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.

Jesus was referring to fulfilling the **plan of salvation** as foretold in the **Tabernacle** and given by God to Israel in the wilderness. In the Tabernacle, it was necessary for the **High Priest** to perform a sin offering and a burnt offering in order for God to forgive Israel's sins for one year. 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 in the Tabernacle (Temple).

Obviously, we can't cover how Jesus fulfilled every aspect of the law in this brief paper. However, I would like to focus on the Burnt Offering for today's DID YOU KNOW lesson.

Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning (for the High Priest and his family); and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even (for the people). Exodus 29:38-39

Every day in the Temple, two lambs were offered on the altar. Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us that the first lamb was offered the third hour and the second lamb the ninth hour. In order to fulfill the burnt offering, Jesus had to parallel *outside the gate* what was actually happening inside the Temple. Let us now follow Jesus the morning He was crucified. As He was being led to Golgotha, in the Temple a lamb was being led to the sacrificial altar. At the third hour, the High Priest slaughtered the first lamb and placed it on the altar. At the exact same time, Jesus, God's lamb, was nailed to and placed on God's altar, the cross.

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. (Mark 15: 25)

Now, the suffering begins. The wait begins. Why wait when the suffering is so great? To fulfill the Law, Jesus had to wait for the evening sacrifice in the Temple. At the ninth hour, the High Priest slaughtered the second lamb and placed it on the altar. At exactly the same time outside the gate:

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*And at the **ninth hour** Jesus cried with a loud voice..... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. (Mark 15: 34-37)*

*"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, **it is finished:** and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:28-30)*

It is finished! How many times have you heard from the pulpit preachers say "the plan of salvation is now complete!" No, this is not what Jesus was saying. He was telling us that the law of the Burnt Offering was now **finished**, complete. Now, it was time for the **Sin Offering** to be made and present His blood in the Holy of Holies; but that is a lesson for another day.

So, **DID YOU KNOW???** If you learned something new, today, why not attend Sunday School where dedicated, knowledgeable teachers will assist in your understanding of the Bible.

Today's DID YOU KNOW (May 17, 09) was presented by Bob Epperson, Sunday School Superintendent.