

For I Did Not Speak to Your Fathers, Or Command Them In the Day That I Brought Them Out of the Land of Egypt, Concerning Burnt Offerings or Sacrifices

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The Tenth Day of This Seventh Month Shall Be the Day of Atonement. It Shall Be a Holy Convocation for You; You Shall Afflict Your Souls and Offer an Offering Made By Fire to the Lord (Lev. 23:27).

For I Did Not Speak to Your Fathers, Or Command Them In the Day That I Brought Them Out of the Land of Egypt, Concerning Burnt Offerings or Sacrifices (Jer. 7:22).

Because mankind as a whole has refused to obey God's word since the time of Adam and Eve, He added various sacrifices and ordinances as a temporary means of dealing with sin until Christ came to fulfill what the animal sacrifices could not. These sacrifices were a constant reminder of the sins that people committed against Almighty God, but they did not change anyone's rebellious nature, or attitude,

For the law (of animal sacrifices), having a shadow of the good things to come (through Christ's sacrifice that would provide many blessings to repentant sinners), and not the very image of the things, **can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach (God) perfect.**² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purged (cleansed of sins) would have had no more consciousness of sin.³ **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**⁴ **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**⁵ Therefore, when he (Christ) came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering You (Almighty God) did not desire, but a body You have prepared for me (Christ).'⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.'⁷ Then I (Christ) said, 'Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book (First Covenant) it is written of me – to do Your will, O God (Heb. 10:1-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Many teach that animal sacrifices were added when ancient Israel reached Mt. Sinai, following their exodus out of Egypt. However, this is not true. Following Adam and Eve's sin, the spirit-being who later became known as Jesus Christ offered a "clean" animal as a temporary substitute until the ultimate sacrifice for sin came into the world (cf. Jn. 1:29),

Also for Adam and his wife **the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed (covered) them** (symbolic of the future covering for sin that would be provided by Christ's shed blood; cf. Heb. 9:22) (Gen. 3:21; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Abel understood that Almighty God would provide an ultimate sacrifice for all the sins of mankind and the fallen host through the shed blood of Christ (Heb. 9:22). However, in the interim, Abel offered up clean animals as a reminder that breaking any of God's

commands leads to everlasting death (1Jn. 3:4; cf. Rom. 6:23). Abel's actions were repeated many years later by Noah, confirming that the knowledge of God's law, regarding sacrifice, was available and taught from generation to generation (cf. Gen. 8:20),

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.⁴ **Abel** also (in addition to some fruit of the ground) **brought of the first fruits of his flock** (animal sacrifices) **and of their fat** (cf. Ex. 29:13, 22; Lev. 3:16; 4:35; 7:25, 31) (Gen. 4:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

During the four hundred years that the nation of Israel lived in the land of Egypt (cf. Gen. 15:13; Ac. 7:6), they gradually forgot God's law regarding animal sacrifices and absorbed the pagan customs of the Egyptians. By the time they were miraculously taken out of Egyptian slavery, they had completely forgotten about the sacrifices that all their forefathers had given. This is exactly what Jeremiah was saying in the next scriptural reference that some people use to claim that God's word is contradictory,

For I (God) did not speak to your fathers (those who left Egypt), or command them **in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices** (Jer. 7:22; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

When God gave the laws of animal sacrifice to Moses, it was at least fifty days after the Israelites had left Egypt (cf. Ex. 20:24). The first exposure to animal sacrifice as a means of atonement for sin, that the Israelites experienced, was when Moses instructed that the blood of a lamb be placed on the doorposts and lintels of each Israelite household (Ex. 12:1-18). When the Israelites reached Mt. Sinai, God began to progressively teach all His law and commandments to the people. These laws included worshiping Almighty God on His appointed festivals, which mankind has resisted throughout history and continues to do to this day,

Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls (fast without food or water for 24 hours; see study – Fasting for the Right Reason), **and offer an** (animal) **offering made by fire to the Lord** (Lev. 23:27; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ will instruct mankind about His Father's Holy Days, including the Day of Atonement, after he returns to rule this planet. Any nation refusing to keep these Holy Days will suffer the consequences. The fact that Christ will have to re-introduce God's appointed festivals is proof that the majority of Christianity failed to teach the truth about their observance. Instead, Christianity has substituted pagan days of worship like Christmas, New Year's celebrations in January and Ishtar worship, or Easter, in place of God's appointed festivals (see study: Why Passover, Not Easter, Should Be Central to Christianity),

And it shall be that **whichever of the families of the earth** (proof that all nations are meant to keep God's Holy Days today – they are not limited and never were to the Jewish people) do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain (i.e. drought).¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast

of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:17-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

So there's no contradiction between the two scriptures in the heading of this study. Instead, Leviticus 23:27 mentions one of God's Holy Days that was known to the forefathers of the Israelites and then forgotten by their descendants during a four hundred year sojourn in Egypt. And Jeremiah confirmed that the Israelites were not observing God's Holy Days when they were taken out of Egypt and these festivals included animal sacrifices, which have now been fulfilled through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Therefore, animal sacrifices are no longer required as part of observing God's Holy Days, but this does not change the fact that these days are still to be observed as Sabbaths to the Lord, with all the other requirements of Sabbath worship still intact (cf. Ex. 31:13; Lev. 19:3, 30; 26:2; cf. Isa. 56:4-5). Jesus Christ made it abundantly clear that all of God's Holy Days, or Sabbaths, were created from the beginning for the benefit of mankind, not just the Jews. In fact, when the Sabbath command was first proclaimed there were no Jews living on the earth, and no animal sacrifices had been instituted at that point in time,

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Gen. 2:2-3).

And he (Christ) said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man(kind), and not man(kind) for the Sabbath (Mk. 2:27; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

A summary of Sabbath conduct is provided by the prophet Isaiah and interestingly he does not mention animal sacrifices (Isa. 58:13-14).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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