

The Korban Sacrifice

A BLOODY OFFERING TO GOD

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

As far back as paleolithic times, human and animal sacrifices have been an ancient ritual that constitutes a blood offering to a deity. One reason for offering a blood sacrifice was to commune with the god. Also, the sacrifice was the means of appeasing the god of its anger due to its followers' failure to walk according to the deity's demands. A sacrifice was also offered for an exchange for favor like for a bountiful harvest or rain.

The Torah mentions human child sacrifices in several places, one of which is Tophet, or the modern area of Jerusalem called the Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna). This area (situated between East and West Jerusalem), is where worshipers of Molech participated in passing an innocent child

“through the fire” for their own sins. The Bible explicitly condemns these pagan practices.

A DIFFERENT SYSTEM

But what about the sacrificial system of the Torah? How is it different from the archaic practices of the pagan Gentiles?

God established an earthly system and gave it to the Hebrews. In his mercy, he disclosed amazing mysteries that started with a glimpse into the heavenlies that was revealed to Moses.

A PRECISE PATTERN

The apostle Paul writes that God told Moses to build the tabernacle “according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount” (Hebrews 8:5).

A personal God appeared to Moses, calling him up to Mt. Sinai and speaking with him there. The earth shook, the thunder rumbled, and wherever God placed his foot the surface of the mountain appeared as sapphires (Exodus 24:9–12). In this theophany, the Sovereign God of all power and creation proceeded to reveal heavenly and mystical wisdom to Moses. He showed him the only way in which man could approach him.

GOD'S PRESENCE ON EARTH

God not only laid out the exact measurements and specific plans for the tabernacle but also the section of the Tabernacle in which he would personally “ *dwell* ”—*the Most Holy Place*. No other deity dwelt in the midst of its people.

Hebrews 9:1 says “Now the first covenant had both *regulations for worship* and a Holy Place here



on earth". Consider this—God on earth.

The Almighty altruistically unveiled the surreptitious deep *desires of his heart* when he declared: "I also **want** them [the Hebrews] to build a special place **where I can live** among my people. Make it and its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you" (Exodus 25:8.)

The Bible says that the sacrifices of the tabernacle were "the example and shadow of heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5), which means the instructions dictated with precision by God concerning the human aspect of worship were somehow inter-related to the supernatural dimension of heaven. The pure revelation of this disclosure should baffle the minds of his worshippers with two major profundities:

1. The proficiency of "making a place" for God to dwell on Earth.

2. *The corporeality of an earthly tabernacle patterned after the spectacular heavenly one.*

God went into a deeper disclosure as he showed Moses all the depictions of the Messiah and what he would accomplish when he would come. He disclosed Messiah's mystical plans and purposes in the appointed festivals, Messiah's function in all the furnishings and rooms of the holy tabernacle, and the Messiah's performance and purpose in the sacrificial system. Everything in the pattern was about the Messiah who would redeem fallen humanity into fellowship with God and restore the corrupted earth back under his kingdom.

YESHUA PROCLAIMED TO THE PHARISEES:

"Moses wrote about me, and if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me. But if you don't believe what Moses wrote, how can you believe what I say? (John 5:46–47).

THE PRICE OF THE FALL

Man sins every day and falls short of God's expectations. The most terrifying words of the Bible are *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).

Because man sins, intimate communion with God is impossible. Because God is the epitome of purity and perfection, man would literally have to die when entering his presence. Death is the only payment for man's deficiency of sinfulness. But God remedied this conundrum by instituting his substitutionary sacrifice system. "Life is in the blood, and I have given you the blood of animals to sacrifice **in place of your own**" (Leviticus 17:11)

In place of your own? From the time of the fall in the garden, God established an acceptable system of an innocent, clean animal taking the place of the sinner, dying in his or her stead, and thereby atoning (covering) the sinner in the supernatural realm. The voice of the innocent blood

Lord and Messiah

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"spoke" for the guilty and paid the price for the sin.

THE ABRAHAMIC BLOOD COVENANT

To get some clarity of God's plan of communion and atonement, one must go back to the astounding and world-changing revelation given to Abram.

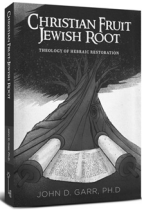
When Abram was put to sleep, God brought him into the spirit realm—into timelessness where God resides. Outside of time and space, the Father showed his servant the marvelous reality of redemption. He revealed to his servant "the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world" and simultaneously the actualization of that Lamb being put on the cross, paying the price with his perfect and flawless blood for the sins of every human being who entered into his covenant. As Yeshua testified, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and **he saw it** and was glad" (John 8:56).

Abram believed and trusted in God's magnificent plan of rescue. This trust in God's plan of redemption was passed down through the generations through pictures and shadows depicting the fabulous and

God revealed to Abraham "the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world" and the actualization of that Lamb being nailed to the cross, paying the price with his blood for the sins of every human being who entered into his covenant.

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ultimate promise that would one day be realized in Messiah. It was through this **trust in God's plan** and the substitutionary sacrificial system that pointed to the suffering Messiah that people were saved and were accounted righteous just as their father Abraham was.

Just as believers in Yeshua have faith and trust in the Messiah's **second coming**, the righteous people of previous times had faith in his first coming. “Blessed were those who were found watching and waiting for his coming!” (Luke 12:37). The righteous dead that were waiting in the “Bosom of Abraham” or by the “Faith of Abraham” were visited in the depths of the earth by a crucified Yeshua who ministered to them and then led them out of their captivity raising them with him from the grave!

Graves opened, and many of God's people were raised to life. They left their graves, and after Jesus had risen to life, they went into the holy city, where they were seen by many people (Matthew 27:52–53).

What an amazing performance that was done on the earth and beneath the earth before he ascended above the earth to receive all glory, power and dominion. This act set the Messiah up for his second coming when he releases all the sealed end-time events and brings his Kingdom down to join with the earth! (Daniel 7:14; Revelation 5:1–7; Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:1).

Hebrews 9 explains that once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a clean animal, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.” This blood was poured on the Mercy Seat (patterned after the Mercy Seat in the Temple in heaven). The kosher animal blood was poured out as “a picture” of what the Messiah would ultimately do with his own blood!

“Christ being come a 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” (Hebrews 9:11–12).

What a wonder to man! Yeshua crossed into the spiritual dimension and went into the Holy of Holies of the **heavenly** temple, satisfying the wages of our sin with his own blood. He did this for all who will trust in him as Abraham did! “Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself” (Hebrews 9:24).


KORBAN

Korban is the Hebrew word for sacrifice, or an offering *made to God*. But the Hebrew understanding of *korban* has greater inferences not understood by the English or other language equivalents. *Korban* refers to something set aside for God, devoted to his use alone. It was the means by which man could draw near. *Korban* actually allows mere man to stand before the presence of the Almighty. The word *korban* is used 80 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. But it is God himself who determines what is *korban* to him and how it must be achieved.

In paganism, *korban* primarily referred to sacrificial offerings given from humans to their gods for the purpose of doing homage, winning favor, securing pardon, or propitiating.

But the fastidious and specific instructions from the mouth of God and the realm of heaven open our world to the **presence and Spirit of the Most High**. The First Testament instructions were the pattern to the perfect. And now the perfect has come. Let the world know!

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1–2).

Yeshua's precious blood is the precise *Korban* that allows us to draw near, even though we once were far off. We can rest in this—our penalty has been paid in full! 

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