

“ISRAEL MY GLORY”

Israel’s Mission, and Missions to Israel

by

John Wilkinson

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

ATONEMENT

TRACTS FOR JEWS NUMBER 7

יום הכפרים

Day of Atonements

Jew. All true Jews regard “*Yom Kippur*” as the most solemn day in the whole year. We fast, we pray, we weep, and give alms in order to find forgiveness of our sins. Our Rabbis tell us that sacrifices are not necessary now, but that God will accept almsgiving, prayers and fasting instead.

Christian. We know that your “*Yom Kippur*” is a most solemn day, and instead of ridiculing your observances as superstitious, many true Christians, on your account, feel as much pain on that day as do the Jews.

Jew. Do any Christians feel pain on our account? Why so?

Christian. Because they know, on the clearest testimony of Holy Scripture, that if the God of Israel changes not—and He says—אני יהוה לא שניתי—“**I am the Lord, I change not;**” the praying, fasting, weeping Jews can have no forgiveness on *Yom Kippur*, except on the ground of atoning blood; for God says—כי יהיה הוא בנפש יכפר—“**For it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul**” (Leviticus 17:11), and to show that this is not one way of forgiveness amongst others, but the only way, God says by another Jew: “**Without shedding of blood is no remission**” (Hebrews 9:22).

The Jews have now no atoning blood, and consequently no forgiveness of sins.

Jew. Our learned men are telling us now that the slaughter of animals in sacrifice was a heathen custom, and that as a matter of policy this custom was adopted by the Mosaic law as a temporary expedient, to prevent the Israelites from sacrificing to the heathen deities; but that now the idea of the sacrifice of animals is contrary to the spirit of the age we live in.

Christian. Surely it is most dishonoring to God to suppose that He would adopt a policy of expediency by adopting heathen rites into the Mosaic law; besides, we must remember that the sacrifices under the Mosaic law did not preserve the Jews from idolatry, for both the kingdoms of Israel and Judah fell into gross idolatry which banished them from their country. We Christians believe that those Jews are right who hold that the sacrifices were for a temporary purpose.

Jew. Well, then, you would not encourage us to pray for the restoration of sacrifices, but you would take sides with those reform Jews who say we have become too enlightened to need sacrifice. How then do you suppose we shall get the forgiveness of our sins?

Christian. The best way both for Jew and Christian is first to hear what God has to say on this matter. Let us go back to the observance of *Yom Kippur* in ancient times, and see what were the instructions given by God when He instituted the day's observances.

Let us look for a moment at the meaning of the root word—כפר—from which Kippur is derived.

It is translated commonly, yea more than sixty times, by the word **atonement**, also by the word *expiation, purge, reconcile, reconciliation, reconciling, pacified, appease, pardon, forgive, cleanse*. These words plainly testify that Kippur has to do with some transaction between God and man, by means of which reconciliation is effected on the basis of atonement for sin, the claims of God's holiness and law fully met, and the sinner's forgiveness and cleansing honorably provided for.

The fullest instructions for the observances of this day are given in the 16th chapter of Leviticus.

Here the Lord speaks to Moses, and instructs him to tell his brother Aaron when and where and how he is to serve during that day. Leviticus 23:27 also specifies the day as the tenth of the seventh month (*Tishri*). Rest from work, affliction of soul and sacrifice are strictly enjoined—none may be neglected without peril.

On this one day only of the whole year may Aaron enter the Holy of Holies within the vail, where he first takes the blood of the bullock as the atonement for himself and for the priestly house, sprinkles it once on—הכפרת—the *mercy seat* eastward, and before the mercy seat seven times.

Then he must kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people and present its blood in the same place and in the same manner as he had presented the blood of the bullock. Then he takes the live goat, lays both his hands on its head, confesses over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat and sending him away. God speaks to Moses. Moses tells Aaron exactly what God says. Aaron does exactly what God tells him by Moses. The atonement for sin is made and the people and priests are forgiven. This is plainly God's way of atoning for sin and of forgiving the sinner.

Jew. Our Rabbis and learned men tell us what to believe and what to do.

- Some tell us that sacrifices never had atoning value, but were expressive only of dependence on God, and of gratitude to God.
- Some say they were to give employment and a livelihood to the priesthood.
- Others say the day itself atones for sin.
- Others tell us that the blood wasted in the body by fasting atones for sin.
- And others that the slaughter of a fowl on the eve of *Yom Kippur* will atone for sin.

Many of us are much perplexed as to what is the truth.

Christian. This is most perplexing and unsatisfactory. We are in God's hands. We have sinned against God. God is angry with the wicked every day.

- God says, "**All have sinned.**"
- God says, "**The soul that sinneth, it shall die.**"
- God says, "**Death is the penalty of sin.**"
- God says, "**The life is in the blood.**"
- God says, "**It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**"

Not the blood of the sinner wasted by fasting. Not the blood of the fowl killed by many Jews on *erev Yom Kippur* (*eve of the day of atonement*). These sacrifices would have atoned for sin if God had appointed them, but He has not, and so they are useless.

The day itself has no more virtue than any other day to atone for sin. The Passover without a lamb is no Passover. The Lord's Passover provided sheltering blood, and a lamb on which to feed. Now the Jews have unleavened bread only. The annual atonement provided by God was the bullock's blood for the priestly house, and the goat's blood for the congregation of Israel. Had Aaron observed the day by repentance, fasting, weeping, prayer, only, and thus entered the Holy of Holies on *Yom Kippur*, he would have been killed dead on the spot. And can a Jew hope to be saved where Aaron would have been killed?

Jew. But the Christians do not offer sacrifices, and they profess to know their sins forgiven; why should not we Jews get forgiveness without sacrifice? If sacrifices are necessary for us, why not for them?

Christian. There is no respect of persons with God. Jews and Gentiles have all sinned. God elects the Jewish nation to learn, and then teach His way of salvation. In their Tabernacle and Temple the daily and yearly sacrifices teach about sin, atonement and forgiveness.

Either the sinner must die for his own sin, or a substitute provided by God. The substitute must not be a sinner, so God provides bullocks, lambs and goats. God shows His displeasure against sin by the death of the innocent victim; and at the same time He shows His love to the sinner by appointing a substitute.

These sacrifices were to be offered only by the Jews, not by the Gentiles. The Jews were to be a blessing to the world, but the world would not and could not practice the Jews' religion of sacrifices.

The 110th Psalm teaches a change of Priesthood—על־דברתי מלכ־צדק—after the order of Melchizedek.

If a change of priesthood there must be a change also of the law of sacrifices. That priesthood is the priesthood of the Messiah. The sacrifices all pointed to Him. The sacrifices of bullocks, lambs and goats were not worth as much as a man, so they had to be offered over and over again, day after day, and year after year, for many centuries, till the Jews had well learned their lesson—that God’s way of saving a sinner is, atonement by blood, the innocent dying for the guilty.

The sacrifices having served their purpose as picturing the sacrifice of Messiah, whose one voluntary sacrifice gave full meaning and a termination to the Mosaic sacrifices, and thus perpetuated the doctrine of atonement by blood to the end of the world. Like the Jewish sacrifices, the Messiah must be without sin, and must die instead of the sinner. Besides, He must be a Divine Person, that His sacrifice may avail for all sinners and for all time—indeed He must be—מלאך יהוה— **“Angel of the Lord,”** and יהוה צדקנו **“the Lord our righteousness.”**

The sinlessness of the Lord Jesus Christ qualifies Him to take the sinner’s place; and His Divinity gives infinite value to His sacrifice.

Jew. Then do you mean to say that the repentance, fasting, praying, and almsgiving of the Jews will not avail for the pardon of their sins?

Christian. Certainly they will not. We must go by what God says. Your forefathers who offered sacrifices in obedience to God knew their sins forgiven on the testimony of God. When Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice on the cross, then all Jews who wished to have their sins forgiven, trusted in His atonement and got forgiveness. God then swept away the sacrifices of the Mosaic law as done with, so that Jews and Gentiles alike might have salvation through the one atonement made by Jesus on the cross;— והוא מחלל מפשענו מדכא מעונותינו מוסר שלומנו עליו ובחברתו — גרפאלנו — **“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities . the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed”** (Isaiah 53:5) — כלנו כצאן תעינו איש לדרכו פנינו ויהוה הפגיע בו את עין כלנו — **“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”** (Isaiah 53:6).

Christ is now the true atonement, and there is no other. Read the ninth chapter of the inspired letter to the Hebrews written by a Jew, and you will get further light.

“The priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

“Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an 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, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:6-14).

Jew. Do you mean us to understand that we Jews must either observe the ceremonies given by God to Moses, in order to get forgiveness of our sins, or else we must accept Christ as our Messiah, and His death as our atonement?

Christian. We dare not keep back the truth. You must do one or the other. But since you cannot do the former, and they would avail nothing if you could, for they are abolished, you can now be saved only by the atoning work of Christ. He took our place that we might take His. He was treated, willingly, as we deserved to be treated, that we might be treated as He deserved to be treated. He was treated as though He had committed all the sinner’s sins; that we, trusting in Him, might be treated, as though we had practiced all His righteousness. Indeed, **“He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Jew. If all this be true, then the Christian religion is more like the religion of Moses than is our present Jewish religion.

Christian. And so it is. You have changed Mosaism, based on atoning blood, for Rabbinism which glories in the absence of atoning blood.

Is it wise, is it safe, to trust in what man says instead of what God says? God says, **“It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”** The believing Jew and the believing Gentile say of Jesus **“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”** **“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”**

This is God’s way, there is no other—accept it and be saved for ever; or reject it, or neglect it, and be lost forever. **“Why will ye die, O house of Israel.”** **“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”**

~ end of chapter 18 ~

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