

An Attempt To Listen To God

The Altar Foreshadows The
Sacrifice of Christ

By

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It would have been impossible to look at that blood stained altar and not think of the deaths of the pristine animals whose bodies had been burnt on it. The writer to the Hebrews wrote: “We have an altar” (Heb. 13:10), that is the cross of Christ, and each Sunday morning many seek to remember the Lord. During that remembrance there will be mention of His death for the inspired apostle wrote: “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come” (1 Cor. 11:26). Just as the altar was very large, it foreshadowed the enormity of the work of the Lord. The following questions will perhaps help us to focus on the fulness of the sacrifice of Christ.

What Did The Vicarious Sufferings And Death of Christ:

1) Display of Christ

His Character	Reference
In contrast to man’s savagery He displayed fulness of sympathy	Lk. 23:34
In contrast to man’s might, Christ shows meekness	Acts 8:32
In contrast to man’s will Christ displayed God’s will	Lk. 22:42; Heb. 10:9

2) Manifest to the sinner

The supreme manifestation of:	Reference
The depth of depravity to which the human heart can sink when away from God, when man becomes like an animal	Psa. 22:12-13, 20
Of the worlds bankruptcy of merit for deserving Christ	Lk. 19:14
The supreme demonstration of the human heart grasping after that which belonged to God	Mk. 12:7
The totality of satanic disdain for Christ	Lk. 19:14
God taking the devilish act of rebellion and turning it into the foundation for reconciliation	Lk. 19:14
God taking the act of extreme wickedness was answered by the act of greatest love and goodness	Matt. 16:21

3) Manifest to God

It was the greatest manifestation of:	Reference
The love of God	Jn. 3:16

It was the greatest manifestation of:	Reference
The righteousness of God. God could not overlook sin, so did God not punish sin in the past? Was he being lax in His holiness or were they all just idle threats? The cross is the answer to both. A penal penalty must be paid if a thing has any value and at the cross God righteously dealt with sin. All the sins of the past were dealt with in righteousness only because of the cross (Rom. 3:25). The sins of the future is only possible because of the cross (Rom. 3:27). There is past patience (Rom. 3:25), present justification (Rom. 3:24), and future grace (Rom. 5:8). All meet at the cross. God's banished were reconciled to Him (2 Sam. 14:14).	Rom. 4:22-26

4) Mean for Satan

It was the foundation for:	
Destroying him "who had the power of death"	Heb. 2:14
Destroying "the works of the devil"	1 Jn. 3:8

The Sacrifice of Christ:

Was the foundation for:	Reference
The putting away of sins	Heb. 9:26; 10:11-14
Redemption, from all iniquity	Titus 2:14
Redeeming to God	Rev: 5:9
Reconciliation to God	2 Cor. 5:18
Justification and the freedom from guilt	Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7
Sanctification	Heb. 10:10
Perfecting	Heb. 10:4
Purging away sins	1 Jn. 3:5
Christ being the propitiation	Rom. 3:25
Peace with God	Rom. 5:1
Having the righteousness of the law	Rom. 8:3
Being made alive for righteous activity	Gal. 2:19
Bringing forth fruit	Rom. 7:4
Having our hearts sprinkled and bodies washed	Heb. 10:22

Was the foundation for:	Reference
Having our souls saved	Heb. 10:39
Having our sins washed away	Acts 22:16
Being made sons of God	1 Jn. 3:1
Finding rest	Matt. 11:28
Connects a disciple with the covenant.	Matt. 26:28
Being given the knowledge of eternal life	Jn. 6:32-39
Secures the approach of the saints to the holiest	Heb. 9:7-12
The testimony of good things to us	Heb. 10:1
The testimony of judgment to the ungodly	Heb. 12:25
The pledge of election	1 Pet. 1:2
The daily resource for cleansing	1 Jn.1:7; Heb. 9:14
The theme of our redemption song	Rev. 5:9
The resource for victory over Satan	Rev. 15:2
The proof of the death of Christ	Jn. 19:33
The purchasing price of the flock	Acts 20:28
The Center of union between saints on earth	1 Cor. 10:16
The power of deliverance from Satan's power	Col. 1:13
Imputed righteousness	Rom. 8:3
The basis for cleansed robes	Rev. 7:14-16

At The Altar Blood Was Shed

We have already noticed that there was a very close connection between the altar and the blood sacrifices. When reading in the New Testament there is a marked difference between how the sacrificial blood is mentioned in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament it is simply spoken of as "blood", but the "blood" of our Lord is never spoken of in such a way. It is called:

- 1) The Blood of Christ (4 References)
 - a) "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:16).
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (Eph. 2:13; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19)
- 2) The Blood of Jesus (1 Reference)
 - a) "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus" (Heb. 10:19)

- 3) The Blood of Jesus Christ (1 Reference)
 - a) “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied” (1 Pet. 1:2)
- 4) The Blood of Jesus Christ His Son (1 Reference)
 - a) “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7)
- 5) The Blood of the Lord (1 Reference)
 - a) “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Cor. 11:27)
- 6) The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant (1 Reference)
 - a) “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20)
- 7) His Own Blood (4 References)
 - a) “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28) (Heb. 9:12; 13:12; Rev. 1:5)
- 8) Precious Blood (1 reference)
 - a) “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:19)
 - i) Sin lieth at the door. The Fulness of the Death of Christ
 - i) It decisively and in finality removes me from the sphere of condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
 - ii) It decisively in finality removes me from the burden of domination (Rom. 6:18; 8:2)
- 9) The truth of the “Shed Blood” of the Lord is found in multiple verses, even though the specific phrase does not occur. Illustration:
 - a) A life given: “The life . . . is in the blood” (Lev. 17:11)
 - b) Judgment fully executed: “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23)

At The Altar The Body of The Animal Was Burnt

The bread on the table reminds us of the words of our Lord when He took bread and said: “This is my body which is given for you” (Lk. 22:19). Musing on the body of our Lord in which He suffered so greatly we read of:

- 1) The Body of the Lord Jesus (1 reference)
 - a) “They entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus” (Lk. 24:3)
- 2) The Lord’s body (1 reference)
 - a) “He that eateth and drinketh unworthily . . . not discerning the Lord’s body” (1 Cor. 11:29)
- 3) The body of Jesus (5 references)
 - a) Joseph of Arimathaea went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus (Mk. 15:43; Lk. 23:52)
 - b) “Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes” (Jn. 19:38, 40)
 - c) “And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain” (Jn. 20:12)
- 4) The body of Jesus Christ (1 reference)
 - a) “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb. 10:10)

- 5) My body (2 references)
 - a) “She hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial” (Matt. 26:12)
 - b) “This is my body which is given for you” (Lk. 22:19)
 - 6) His own body (1 reference)
 - a) He “bare our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Pet. 2:24)
 - 7) A Body (1 reference)
 - a) “A body hast Thou prepared me” (Heb. 10:5)
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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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