

Biblical Theology Core Seminar
“The Story of Sacrifice”
Week 8 (03.15.2023)

Introduction

How do we answer questions such as, “What did Christ’s sacrifice accomplish?” and “What was he doing on the cross?”.

In order to do so, we need a discipline that will help us get to those answers. Biblical Theology is a discipline that helps us to experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. And it is in exploring that story, in this way, with the tools we have available, that we will find answers to such questions.

The Story of Sacrifice in Six Episodes

1) Cain and Abel in **Genesis 4**: an offering, a gift, a tribute.

2) Noah in **Genesis 8**: a gift that has an effect on God.

Genesis 8:20-9:1 20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 When the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will

never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.”

And then, Noahic covenant

9:1 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth....

3) Abraham in **Genesis 22**: a test of devotion and a substitute.

4) Passover in **Exodus**: for a representative firstborn, a spotless lamb, and a set apart people.

5) The repeated sacrifices of **Leviticus**:

- Clean animals without defect.
- Every first-born Israelite, who represents the nation as whole, must be redeemed with a sacrificial substitute.
- The shedding of a blameless victim’s blood.
- Substitution: “He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf...” (**Lev. 1:4**)
- Endless repetition.
- The Day of Atonement: to make atonement for sins.

6) **Messiah:** The Messiah fulfilled everything the OT sacrifices meant, and accomplished what they were unable to do.

PATTERNS IN THE STORYLINE

1) The first pattern to notice is the pattern itself – the pattern or typology of sacrifice. And within this typology: progressive revelation.

2) Discontinuity

- No longer endless repetition
- Not just for one nation

3) Promise/fulfillment.

SYSTEMATIZING IT ALL

What's the purpose in pointing out these patterns? They are instrumental in helping us to understand who Jesus is, what his sacrifice accomplished, and why we need his sacrifice.

1) *The fundamental problem with the world and humanity is our sin and the guilt it incurs.*

2) *The Messiah came to die as a substitute*

3) *The Messiah came to die as a penal substitute.*

4) *The Messiah came to die as a penal substitute to propitiate the wrath of God.*

5) *The Messiah came to die as a penal substitute to propitiate the wrath of God and make atonement for his people.*

6) *The Messiah came to die as an effective penal substitute to propitiate the wrath of God and make atonement for his people.*

7) We're saved by faith alone (not any other sacrifice than Messiah's)

8) We're saved by faith alone in the Messiah alone.

Conclusion – And Yet...One More Sacrifice