



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Exodus and Leviticus Sermon Series

Supports Session 12: Atonement

Sermon Title: “Behold the Lamb!” (John 1:19-35)

Connection to Session 12

Sin has consequences. In Leviticus, Aaron’s family experienced those consequences firsthand with the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. Sin leads to punishment and death. How could sinful man and woman be reconciled? They could be reconciled through a sacrificial death on their behalf. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would bring an offering on behalf of himself and provide sacrifices on behalf of the people. These sacrifices were meant to teach the people that they needed a substitute. Our text from John 1 shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of all the sacrifices in the Old Testament. Jesus has taken the punishment for our sin upon Himself.

Introduction/Opening

Have you ever wondered why we no longer sacrifice lambs or other animals for our sins? In the Old Testament, numerous sacrifices were performed. We no longer sacrifice animals because of what this text tells us about Jesus. This text shows that the Old Testament sacrificial system was fulfilled in Jesus. This text shows us that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Outline

I. John’s testimony about himself (John 1:19-28)

In the Gospel of John, a number of witnesses testify to Jesus’s identity. John first testified to his own identity. Some questioned if John was the Messiah; however, he told the people that he had come to prepare the way for the Messiah.

a. Not the Christ

i. John was asked, “Who are you?” (John 1:19).

i. John clearly answered that he was not the Messiah (v. 20)

ii. John was “a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord” (v. 23).

1. John was quoting Isaiah 40:3.

2. Isaiah called for the people to return from the exile and repent.

3. John called people to repent and be ready for the arrival of the Messiah.

- a. Application: Our task of being a witness for Christ is similar to John’s task. We are called to tell people to repent and turn to the Lord.

II. John’s testimony about Jesus (John 1:29-35)

John testified that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Bible teaches that sin requires death, “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). This means that we need a perfect, substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.

a. Behold the Lamb!

- i. John declared that Jesus is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).
- ii. The significance of the lamb

1. Atonement

- a. Atonement is reconciliation between God and His people.
- b. When God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt, God showed mercy on Israel through the Passover lamb (Ex. 12). A lamb needed to die as a substitute.
- c. After Israel was brought out of slavery, God established a sacrificial system to remind the people about the punishment for sin. This sacrificial system taught that sin is serious and could only be covered by the shedding of blood (Lev. 17:11).
- d. Leviticus 16 described the special sacrifices that took place on the Day of Atonement. One goat would be sacrificed on behalf of the people’s sins. A second goat would be sent away symbolizing the people’s sins being carried away.

2. Foreshadowing

- a. The sacrificial system God gave the Israelites was meant to point to the only sacrifice that could truly remove their guilt.
- b. This sacrifice is found in Jesus Christ’s death on the cross.

iii. Behold the Messiah!

- 1. Jesus has come to accomplish what the Old Testament sacrifices symbolized: atonement for our sins.
- 2. Life is found only through the perfect work of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Application: We must trust in Christ for salvation.
 - b. Application: We must call others to trust in Christ for salvation.
 - c. Application: We are called to behold the God who saves!

Conclusion

Why do we no longer need to sacrifice animals? Because the ultimate sacrifice has been made for us in Jesus Christ. What does Jesus’s sacrifice do for us? Jesus’s sacrificial death made it possible for us to have salvation from sin and enables us to be in right relationship with God.

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