

God was Manifest in the Flesh

December 23, 2018

Hebrews 10:1-4 ESV

- 1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.
- 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?
- 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.
- 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- **The blood and bodies of animals could never be a sufficient sacrifice for man, in bearing away as the substitute, our sin and judgment.**
 - The wages of sin was death, both spiritual and natural death. For the sacrifice to be truly substitutionary, it had to be capable of receiving all that the judgment for sin embodied, both spiritual and natural. Therefore the substitute had to be a human sacrifice, who would receive in his body the full measure of our punishment. Only then could we be released from the just penalty we deserved.
 - The only power the blood of sacrificial animals had was because of the one sacrifice they symbolized. But the sacrifice of animals had no power to take away our sins, only the power to point our faith towards the sacrifice to come.

Isaiah 53:1-12 ESV

- 1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
- 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?
- 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an

offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- **The substitutionary sacrifice had to be a man, yet it had to be a perfect man who had never sinned. For if this man had sinned even once, the judgment he bore would be for his own guilt, disqualifying him to bear the guilt of another. This was the driving necessity for the Virgin Birth.**

Matthew 1:20-25 ESV

20 *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

21 *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

22 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:*

23 *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

24 *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,*

25 *but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Hebrews 10:5-10 ESV

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Colossians 1:13-14 ESV

13 *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred (methistēmi - to remove from one place to another, to put out, transfer, exchange) us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*

14 *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

- **Jesus was the perfect Substitute:**

- **Fully Man** - able to bear as a human sacrifice all that the judgment for sin embodied, both legal and literal, both spiritual and natural.
- **Fully God** - sinless and perfect, the only human to walk on earth who qualified to be a substitute for others.

- **What response does, or should, this perfect sacrifice invoke in you?**

Psalm 51:16-17 ESV

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Hebrews 10:11-14 ESV

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- **Having separated (sanctified) us from our sin and our judgment, Jesus set us apart (sanctified) into union and relationship with our heavenly Father.**
- **In that relationship with God, He is always working within us to cleanse, mature and perfect us in the training of His chastening and sanctification.**

Jude 1:24-25 ESV

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Philippians 1:6 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:15-18 ESV

15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:19-23 ESV

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience [justification] and our bodies washed with pure water [sanctification].
23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- **Drawing near to God, with all confidence, in full assurance of faith, is the sole purpose for God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:19 NASB

19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...