



## **RCD Youth Dust to Glory - #11 OT Sacrificial System**

The Old Testament sacrificial system has been called “primitive and obscene.” This is an appropriate description because God gave these symbols to primitive people to teach about the obscenity of human beings rebelling against a holy God. Indeed the most obscene event in history was when Jesus of Nazareth hung on a cross at Calvary substituting Himself as an obscenity for His unholy creatures.

### **SCRIPTURE Survey**

Leviticus - (Read a sample of OT sacrificial law)

### **DISCUSSION**

A symbolic relationship existed between blood and life in the Hebrew mind. The concept of the shedding of blood is symbolic of the giving up of life because the penalty for sin is death. The death of the substitute is required for the penalty to be fulfilled. The significance was not in the blood, but rather the significance was in giving up the entire life of the animal.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

- Christ atonement for our sins by fulfilling the requirements of the Old Testament sacrificial system.
  - The Son of God became a curse for us in bearing our sins.
  - The Old Testament sacrificial system with its abundant slaughter of animals
  - and sprinkling of blood seems barbaric and primitive.
  - God is concerned with communicating His message to the simplest person
  - in this world.
  - The drama of human redemption deals with the obscenity of human rebellion against God.
  - The most obscene event in history was when Jesus of Nazareth hung on the cross at Calvary. Why?
  - The gospel is the message that God has descended to us to cover our
  - obscenities. This is the message that is portrayed in the Old Testament sacrificial system.

- Terminology
  - Expiation - Removal of sins
    - On the Day of Atonement the sins of the people were transferred to a scape-goat that was sent outside of the camp to the place of defilement (Lev. 16).
    - When John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching he sang the Agnus Dei: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).
  - Propitiation - Focused on meeting demands of God's holiness and justice
  - Substitution - Key concept that God permitted sins to be transferred; hope for holiness
- There were six primary steps in Old Testament offerings. The first three were performed by the worshiper and the last three were performed by the priest.
  - A worshiper would bring one of his own animals for an offering.
  - The worshiper would lay his hands on it to symbolize the transfer of his sins to the animal.
  - The worshiper would then kill the animal for the sacrifice.
  - The priest would take the animal's blood into the tabernacle and sprinkle it on the altar.
  - A portion of the offering would be burned on the altar.
  - A portion of the offering would be left to the priest for eating.

## **APPLICATION**

- The sacrifices under the Old Testament system foreshadowed the sacrifice of Christ Himself.
 

"For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:13–14).