



Introduction

There are three options for the extent of the atonement.

- Universal salvation
- Hypothetical universalism
- Definite atonement

Definite Atonement

The doctrine of definite atonement states that, in the death of Jesus Christ, the triune God intended to achieve the redemption of every person given to the Son by the Father in eternity past, and to apply the accomplishments of his sacrifice to each of them by the Spirit. The death of Christ was intended to win the salvation of God's people alone.¹

Universal Atonement

Universal atonement states that Jesus died for every single person.

John 3:16

1 Timothy 2:5-6

1 John 2:2

God's Chosen People

The nation of Israel is a covenant community chosen by the electing love of God.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Deuteronomy 10:15

¹ David Gibson and Jonathan Gibson, "Sacred Theology and the Reading of the Divine Word," in *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her: Definite Atonement in Historical, Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspective*, ed. David Gibson and Jonathan Gibson (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 33.



The Passover

The sacrifice of the lamb had a particular goal and focus.

The Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:17

Leviticus 16:16a

Leviticus 16:21-22

Romans 9:6-7

Hebrews 10:4

Romans 3:25

Isaiah 53

The Success of the Atonement

Isaiah 51:9-10 – the “arm of the Lord” refers to the Lord himself providing salvation.

Isaiah 52:13 – the Servant will succeed in his mission and be exalted.

Because the Servant succeeds there is no uncertainty as to who is saved and that salvation is guaranteed.

The Effectiveness of the Atonement

Isaiah 53:4-6

Titus 3:3-5

Isaiah 53:10-12

The Administrator of the Atonement

Isaiah 53:7-9 – the atonement accomplished by the Servant is applied by the Servant to those whom the Servant died to save.



The Recipients of the Atonement

Isaiah 53:6, 12, 15

Conclusion

The Servant of Isaiah chapter 53 took our sins to the cross. He substituted himself for a specific group of people. Also, salvation flows from the death of the Servant. Those who are saved are saved first and foremost because of the success of the Servant in accomplishing redemption.