



Introduction

Pierced For Our Transgressions by Steve Jeffery, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach

The objections to penal substitutionary atonement can be boiled down to four primary objections.¹

1. Penal substitutionary atonement harmfully presents God as being angry.
2. Penal substitutionary atonement wrongly assumes retributive justice on God's part.
3. Penal substitutionary atonement teaches that God punishes his innocent Son for sins he did not even commit.
4. Penal substitutionary atonement involves a violation of the very ethics of peace and love that Jesus taught.

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Genesis 3

Genesis 3:21, "And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them." Animals died instead of Adam and Eve and their nakedness was covered with their skin.

Exodus 12

Exodus 11:4-10

Exodus 12:11-13

Exodus 12:24-27

Mark 14:22-24

1 Peter 1:18-19

1 Corinthians 5:7

¹ Phillips, *What is the Atonement?*, 26-27.



Leviticus 16

There are two goats. One is sacrificed and its blood is sprinkled on the mercy seat. This goat represents propitiation, the turning away of God's wrath. The second goat, the scapegoat, symbolically receives the sin of the people and is then sent away into the wilderness. This goat represents expiation, the removal of sin.

Leviticus 4:20

Leviticus 16:30

Leviticus 16:16, 18-19

Exodus 30:12

Exodus 30:15-16

Numbers 25:10-13

All of the meanings for *kipper*: forgiveness, cleansing, ransom, and the averting of God's wrath, are found in the Day of Atonement as described in Leviticus chapter 16. In other words, *kipper*, usually translated as "he made atonement," refers to the propitiation of God's wrath through a substitutionary animal sacrifice, which cleansed the people from their sin.²

Leviticus 17

Leviticus 17:10-12

Genesis 9:3-5

Deuteronomy 12:23

Leviticus 17:11

Hebrews 9:22

Hebrews 10:4

1 Peter 1:19

Isaiah 53

Surely the classic Old Testament passage that teaches penal substitutionary atonement is the Servant Song in Isaiah chapter 53.

² Ibid., 42-48.



The Servant suffered “for” others.

There are great benefits for those for whom the Servant suffers.

The Servant suffered willingly and deliberately.

The suffering Servant is a sinless and righteous servant.

The Servant suffers for the sins of others.

Isaiah 53:10 is anticipating that the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament are ultimately fulfilled in the death of a person.

Matthew 8:16-17 quotes Isaiah 53:4.

Jesus quotes from Isaiah 53:12 in Luke 22:37.

John 12:38 quotes Isaiah 53:1

Paul quotes the first half of Isaiah 53:1 in Romans 10:16.

In Acts 8:32-33 we see the Ethiopian eunuch reading from Isaiah 53:7-8.

1 Peter 2:22-25 – Isaiah 53:6-7, 9