

Jesus

The Sacrifice

Summary (so far)

- Occam's Razor
- The spiritual is the real, the natural is the shadow
- The “real” creation is Christ's creation
- God is not mechanical but loving, sane, kind, etc.
- Jesus was “the word”; the embodiment of what God was trying to say to us
- Jesus was “the spirit”; the embodiment of God's life-giving power
- Jesus is the king of God's Kingdom now
- In Christ, we are living creatures and possess the “life of the age”

The Genesis Connection

- Gen 4:2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.
- Gen 4:3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,
- Gen 4:4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,
- Gen 4:5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.



The Genesis Connection

- Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

The Real Sacrifice

- Eph 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Eph 5:1-2 ESV)
 - Did God enjoy Jesus' death?

Stakes in the Ground

- Jesus' death wasn't a good thing.
 - Matt 21:33-41 - He will miserably destroy those wicked men
 - If these men helped save the world by killing Jesus, didn't they do a good thing? No, they murdered an innocent man. It was a crime.
 - Act 2:22-23 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Stakes in the Ground

- Jesus died for you, not instead of you. Not a substitute. A “real” sacrifice vs. a ritual sacrifice.
 - *Two different meanings of sacrifice should be clearly distinguished. A Real sacrifice - with an explicit purpose, as a man who makes the supreme sacrifice by giving his life for a cause or to save another from drowning or fire - or from sin and death. This was the Crucifixion. Or Ritual sacrifices based on a real event, their reason and purpose different from that event, repetitive, their effect only valid if sincere and that effect - forgiveness - imputed.*
 - (Why Christ Died, J. Hargrave James)

Stakes in the ground

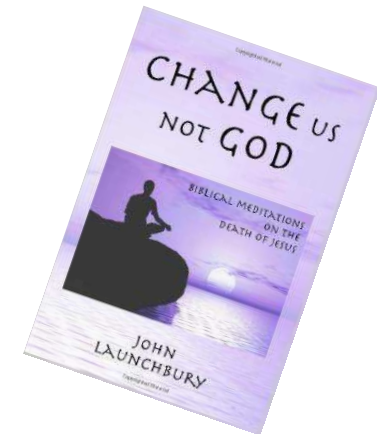
- Jesus death on the cross dictated the animal sacrifices, not the other way around.



Stakes in the Ground

Jesus' death didn't fix a problem with God.

- Jesus' dying fixed God's anger with mankind.
- Jesus' dying solved a problem regarding God's righteousness.
- God was too holy to deal with us and needed an intermediary (Christ).





Stakes in the Ground

God's primary emotion related to Christ's death and us was love.

- Not: God was so angry with the world that he required the death of His only son
- Ro 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- 1Jo 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Stakes in the Ground

- God didn't send his son to die but to deliver a message.
 - **Mat 21:34,37** he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it...But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.
 - **Mat_23:37** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!
 - **Joh_4:34** Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
 - **Joh_6:38** For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Stakes in the Ground

Jesus blood represents his life. It was not “magic.”

- Ge 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.
- Le 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.
- Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- 1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Stakes in the Ground

- God's foreknowledge does not mean His requirement or approval.
 - *Prophecies, types, foreshadowing of the Crucifixion do not necessarily mean that God "designed or approved" the tragedy since there is no reason why men's waywardness should not be used as part of God's purpose.*
 - *(Why Christ Died, J. Hargrave James)*

Stakes in the ground

- Jesus death didn't save us, but his life does
 - Rom_5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
 - 1Co_15:16-17 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Stakes in the Ground Summary

- Jesus' death wasn't a good thing.
- Jesus died for you, not instead of you. Not a substitute. A "real" sacrifice vs. a ritual sacrifice.
- Jesus death on the cross dictated the animal sacrifices, not the other way around.
- Jesus' death didn't fix a problem with God.
- God's primary emotion related to Christ's death and us was love.
- Jesus blood represents his life. It was not "magic."
- God's foreknowledge does not mean His requirement or approval.
- Jesus death didn't save us but his life did



Hebrews 10

- The Real Sacrifice of
Jesus



3 Levels of Spiritual Love

1. “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”
2. “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”
3. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

3 Levels of Love & God's Sacrifice



Objections

- Isa 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
 - Esteem: cha^hshab - A primitive root; properly to *plait or interpenetrate, that is, (literally) to weave or (generally) to fabricate; figuratively to plot or contrive (usually in a malicious sense)*

Objections

- Isa 53:5 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.
 - da^ˆka^ˆ‘: to bruise
 - min minni^ˆy: roperly a *part of*; hence (*prepositionally*), *from*, above, after, among, at, because of, by
 - pasha^ˆ: rom H6586; a *revolt* (*national, moral or religious*): - *rebellion, sin, transgression, trespassive*

Objections

- The scapegoat
 - Idea in modern culture is a whipping boy, "fall guy" or "patsy"
 - And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. (Lev. 16)
 - One goat dies, one goat “goes away”

Objections

- Lev 16:22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.
 - nāšā' nāšāh
 - A primitive root; **to lift**, in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively, absolutely and relatively: - accept, advance, arise, (able to, [armour], suffer to) bear (-er, up), bring (forth), burn, carry (away), cast, contain, desire, ease, exact, exalt (self), extol, fetch, forgive, furnish, further, give, go on, help, high, hold up, honourable (+ man), lade, lay, lift (self) up, lofty, marry, magnify, X needs, **obtain, pardon**, raise (up), receive, regard, respect, set (up), spare, stir up, + swear, take (away, up), X utterly, wear, yield.

Objections

- The scapegoat was the counterpart to the lesson of sin=death in that he taught the people forgiveness through confession.
- We can choose to identify with either goat:
 - The goat who died because of sin
 - The “go away” goat who confessed and was let free to live



Putting it all together

- God didn't demand Christ die (though He did want him to learn through suffering)
- God sent Jesus anyway with his message of love and forgiveness knowing we would kill him
- He did this because He loved us so much and there was no better way for us to believe it
- He foreshadowed this in OT sacrifices so we could be assured this was the case
- We now have this loving God and Savior working for our salvation



Putting it all together

- Rom 8:31-34 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.



Putting it all together

- We have a savior who...
 - Is exactly what God has been trying to say all along and came with that message of love
 - Has all power and works in our lives as King
 - Wants our real sacrifice of giving up our own will and agenda and putting God first
 - And was willing to die as a real sacrifice for us so we could know just how much God loves us, Christ loves us and they want us to live with them forever