

Sacrifices: The Sacrifice of Christ and of Christians

Question 1: What does the Old Testament reveal about sacrifices?

_____ can enter the Most Holy Place, in order to offer animal sacrifices.

Leviticus 16:2 (NLT) – ² *The LORD said to Moses, “Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. For the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover.*

Israel’s sins were _____ by the sacrifice and scapegoat.

Leviticus 16:7-8, 15, 20-22 (NLT) – ⁷ *Then he must take the two male goats and present them to the LORD at the entrance of the Tabernacle¹* ⁸ *He is to cast sacred lots to determine which goat will be reserved as an offering to the LORD and which will carry the sins of the people to the wilderness of Azazel.*

¹⁵ *“Then Aaron must slaughter the first goat as a sin offering for the people and carry its blood behind the inner curtain. There he will sprinkle the goat’s blood over the atonement cover and in front of it, just as he did with the bull’s blood.*

²⁰ *“When Aaron has finished purifying the Most Holy Place and the Tabernacle and the altar, he must present the live goat. ²¹ He will lay both of his hands on the goat’s head and confess over it all the wickedness, rebellion, and sins of the people of Israel. In this way, he will transfer the people’s sins to the head of the goat. Then a man specially chosen for the task will drive the goat into the wilderness. ²² As the goat goes into the wilderness, it will carry all the people’s sins upon itself into a desolate land.*

The animal sacrifices _____ Israel from their sins

Leviticus 16:30 (GNT) – ³⁰ *On that day the ritual is to be performed to purify them from all their sins, so that they will be ritually clean.*

The animal sacrifices were performed _____, therefore cleansing from sin was _____.

Leviticus 16:34 (GNT) – ³⁴ *These regulations are to be observed for all time to come. This ritual must be performed once a year to purify the people of Israel from all their sins.*

Animal sacrifices were made _____ by the other priests every time someone became aware of their sin.

Leviticus 4:27-31 (NLT) – ²⁷ *“If any of the common people sin by violating one of the LORD’s commands, but they don’t realize it, they are still guilty. ²⁸ When they become aware of their sin, they must bring as an offering for their sin a female goat with no defects. ²⁹ They must lay a hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place where burnt offerings are slaughtered. ³⁰ Then the priest will dip his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ³¹ Then he must remove all the goat’s fat, just as he does with the fat of the peace offering. He will burn the fat on the altar, and it will be a pleasing aroma to the LORD. Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the LORD, and they will be forgiven.*

Question 2: What was God’s ultimate plan in regards to sacrifices?

It was _____ to have Jesus die on the cross for our sins as a sacrifice.

Acts 2:23-24 (NCV) – ²³ *Jesus was given to you, and with the help of those who don’t know the law, you put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But this was God’s plan which he had made long ago; he knew all this would happen. ²⁴ God raised Jesus from the dead and set him free from the pain of death, because death could not hold him.*

1 Peter 1:19-20 – (NIRV) – ¹⁹ *Instead, you were bought with the priceless blood of Christ. He is a perfect lamb. He doesn’t have any flaws at all. ²⁰ He was chosen before God created the world. But he came into the world for your sake in these last days.*

It was God’s plan for Jesus to _____ and _____ fulfill the Old Testament law by His death.

Matthew 5:17 (NIRV) – ¹⁷ *“Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do this. Instead, I have come to fulfill what is written.*

Hebrews 10:5-9 (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.*

It was God’s plan that Jesus end the Old Testament law practically in order to end _____.

Ephesians 2:14-15 (NCV) – ¹⁴ Christ himself is our peace. He made both Jewish people and those who are not Jews one people. They were separated as if there were a wall between them, but Christ broke down that wall of hate by giving his own body. ¹⁵ The Jewish law had many commands and rules, but Christ ended that law. His purpose was to make the two groups of people become one new people in him and in this way make peace.

Question 3: Why was this God's ultimate plan in regards to Jesus' sacrifice?

So that people can be _____ by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Hebrews 10:10 (NLT) – ¹⁰ For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

Question 4: Why is the sacrifice of the body of Jesus better than the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament?

Jesus' bodily sacrifice is better because it only needed to occur _____, whereas the Old Testament animal sacrifices were needed to occur _____.

Hebrews 9:24-26 (NLT) – ²⁴ For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. ²⁵ And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. ²⁶ If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

Jesus' bodily sacrifice is better because it can _____ take away sins, whereas the Old Testament sacrifices only took away sins _____.

Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14 (CEB) – ¹ The Law is a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the real things themselves. It never can perfect the ones who are trying to draw near to God through the same sacrifices that are offered continually every year. ² Otherwise, wouldn't they have stopped being offered? If the people carrying out their religious duties had been completely cleansed once, no one would have been aware of sin anymore. ³ Instead, these sacrifices are a reminder of sin every year, ⁴ because it's impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

¹¹ Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins.

¹² But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God.

Jesus' bodily sacrifice is better because by it _____ can enter God's presence _____, whereas in the Old Testament _____ can enter God's presence, but only _____.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (CEB) – ¹⁹ Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, ²⁰ through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, ²¹ and we have a great high priest over God's house. ²² Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

Question 5: How does this sermon apply to me?

I can _____ Jesus, by _____, as my atoning sacrifice.

Romans 3:24-25 (NIRV) – ²⁴ The free gift of God's grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free.

²⁵ God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith.

Believers in Jesus have figuratively been sacrificed and have _____.

Romans 6:6-7 (GW) – ⁶ We know that the person we used to be was crucified with him to put an end to sin in our bodies. Because of this we are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ The person who has died has been freed from sin.

Those who believe in Christ have figuratively been sacrificed, but must literally live on earth by _____.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) – ²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Those who believe in Christ have figuratively been sacrificed, but must literally live on earth by _____ so we do not give in to sin.

Galatians 5:24-25 (NLT) – ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

I can _____ to God as a living sacrifice in order serve God with a _____.

Romans 12:1 (CEB) – So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.