

ATONEMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS DIFFERENT FROM RECONCILIATION IN THE NEW

Atoning sacrifice offered by man in the Old Testament was a demonstration of man's recognition of sin, humility, and neediness in regard to forgiveness and blessing from God. Atoning sacrifice was offered continually and showed a change in man toward an ever present repentance toward God. Atonement was a covering of the basics with regard to man's need.

Atoning sacrifice by man in the Old Testament did not change God's attitude toward man. It did not propitiate God's wrath against sin. It did not expiate sin. It did not buy forgiveness. The blood of bulls and goats did not take away sin. Atoning sacrifice was an action of faith on the part of man. When a man believes God, it is counted for righteousness. Able offered God a blood sacrifice and by his faith he was commended as a righteous man. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:1-6

God is pleased with sacrificial offerings. They are a soothing aroma because they represent a change in the repentant heart and faith toward God. Genesis 8:21 Romans 12:1,2

When God acts upon mankind or creation in a new way it is not because God has changed His mind. God has known His plans from before the beginning of creation. Genesis 8:21 is not an example of God changing His mind due to the offering presented by Noah. The offering was a soothing aroma because Noah was a man of faith.

God does bless repentant hearts and God does withhold blessing from the unrepentant. This does not represent a change in God but rather a change in man. God never changes.

Atonement in the Old Testament is different from reconciliation in the New Testament. Reconciliation through the blood of Jesus was a once for all sacrifice which is provisional for the whole world and judicial for the repentant born again believer in Jesus. By judicial I mean that Jesus is the believer's New Adam whereby they are made new creations in Christ.

Faith in God's promise is essential whether an Old Testament believer under "atonement" or a New Testament believer under reconciliation.

God presented Christ as an action of mercy toward us through faith in His blood. God declared His righteousness that He might be just, and the justifier of all those who have faith in Jesus.

Remember:

Jesus chose to die sinless and by execution by sin so that sin could be condemned to the utmost. Sin is guilty of killing the innocent Jesus. Sin is worthy of extinction. Jesus' sinless death by execution by sin is the Way God has declared an end to sin's control over us. Jesus arose with all power and authority to judge and remove sin from the believer. Jesus changes the believer into a new creature in Christ by His authority to remove sin. God is righteous in giving eternal life to the believer because He changes the believer. By the process of sanctification and glorification, the believer in Jesus arrives at the Kingdom of Heaven totally sinless and totally righteous. God changes the repentant born again believer in Jesus into a new creation. God has no need to change Himself. If we say that God appeased His wrath by killing Jesus in our place we are saying that God had to change something in Him. If we say that God had to punish Jesus in our place we are saying that God had to change something in Himself in order to forgive us and take away our sin. God freely forgives and takes away our sin. His forgiveness doesn't need to be bought. God's wrath toward sin is never appeased. The believer is moved out from under the wrath of God because God promises to complete the work He began in us. God changes us, not Himself. We are new creations in Christ.