

THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD COVENANT

First Covenant/The Old Covenant

The blood of a goat initiated the Old Covenant. Egyptians made a meat offering to their idol before they would eat. The Hebrews had learned this idol worship. To stop Israel from sacrificing to the Egyptian goat gods, every animal had to be killed in the door of the Tabernacle. Blood was placed on the altar as a peace offering to God and then they could take the meat home to be eaten by the family.

I took a solemn oath that I, the LORD, would be their God. ⁶ I took a solemn oath that day that I would bring them out of Egypt to a land I had discovered and explored for them—a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the best of all lands anywhere. ⁷ Then I said to them, ‘Each of you, get rid of the vile images you are so obsessed with. Do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt, for I am the LORD your God.’⁸ “But they rebelled against me and would not listen. They did not get rid of the vile images they were obsessed with, or forsake the idols of Egypt.
Ezekiel 20:6-8

Then the LORD said to Moses, ² “Give the following instructions to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel. This is what the LORD has commanded.³ “If any native Israelite sacrifices a bull or a lamb or a goat anywhere inside or outside the camp ⁴ instead of bringing it to the entrance of the Tabernacle to present it as an offering to the LORD, that person will be as guilty as a murderer. Such a person has shed blood and will be cut off from the community. ⁵ The purpose of this rule is to stop the Israelites from sacrificing animals in the open fields. It will ensure that they bring their sacrifices to the priest at the entrance of the Tabernacle, so he can present them to the LORD as peace offerings. Leviticus 17:2-5

Those blood sacrifices were to prohibit idol worship, remind the people of their sin, and remind them of the holiness of God, and their need of a Savior from sin.

Israel lived under the danger of returning to idol worship and gross immorality which they learned in Egypt.

We can learn much from Hebrews chapters 8,9,10.

ENLIGHTENMENT FROM HEBREWS 8,9,10

Hebrews 8:6 Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second. 8 But God found fault with the people...

Hebrews 8:13 By speaking of a new covenant, He has made the first one obsolete...

Heb.9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

Heb.9:9 It (the Old Covenant) is an illustration, because the gifts and sacrifices being offered were unable to cleanse the conscience..

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands and is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:11-12

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean (ceremonial cleansing), 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God!15 Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

The ceremonial cleansing was reminding Israel of the holiness and purity of God. And it was a reminder of Israel's sinful condition and their need for a Savior.

Hebrews 9:22 says that without the shedding of blood there is no release from the Old Covenant and no New Covenant that leads us into a right relationship with God.

Hebrews 9:19 The inauguration of the old covenant was with water and blood sprinkled on the book of the covenant and on all the people. This shedding of blood introduced Israel to the covenant of law which would remind them of their sin and encourage them to exercise faith and believe God for their cleansing and eternal life.

Faith in God's Provision has always been the avenue for entering the Kingdom of God and eternal life. Adam, Eve, Noah, Job, David, and all Old Testament Saints believed in God's Provision. Today we know His name. His name is Jesus.