

GPS Bible Study Guide notes

The Cross Study

Why the Cross?

Genesis 3:21

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

In this scripture God does something because of the sin of Adam and Eve.
An animal was killed just to make clothes.
Because of sin death entered the world. Blood was shed to atone for sin.

Exodus 12:12-13

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Lamb's blood was acknowledged by God as a token that would stop His judgement of death being carried out.

Atonement for sin

Animal sacrifice was the way in which the children of Israel atoned for their sins.

Lev 1:3-4

3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord.

4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

Lev 17:11

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.

Here we see that God provided a way for man to have their sins forgiven.

The penalty of sin was paid by another.

This would have been done on many occasions throughout the life of an individual on the Day of Atonement.

This day represented the Day of Judgment in which God judges all men according to their deeds.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

Q: How would you feel if you had to do this every year?

God provided a way for people to be forgiven once and for all

Prophecy of a saviour

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

According to this prophecy the Mighty God was to come to earth and be born as a child to become our saviour.

Isaiah 53:1-7

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

This scripture was written over 700 years before the birth of Jesus. It speaks of the iniquity of all being laid on one man (v5 v6). This idea of one bearing the sin for others was not a new concept.

According to the scriptures we have looked at, we can understand that one without blame had to die and shed blood so that the sins of all people can be atoned or paid for.

Why the cross?

Matt 27:45-46

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

The sins of the world were laid upon him just like the sin of the congregation on the Day of Atonement.

What did Jesus have to go through to achieve this?

Matt 26:36-75 Betrayal and Trial

Matt 27:11-12 Accused

Matt 27:21-25 Condemned

Matt 27:26-31 Scourged beaten and humiliated

Matt 27:39-50 Mocked and killed

Jesus did all this for you. He suffered and died.

He also rose from the dead.

Matt 28:1-9

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

In rising from the dead Jesus took authority over death so that through Him we too will overcome sin (which brings death) and with Him rise to new life.

Rom 6:4

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Understanding that it is through baptism that we die to our sins, would you like to die to your sins?