

Discussion on the Forgiveness of Sin under the Old Testament

1. There are several times in the Old Testament where we can read these words , your sins are forgiven . This was said unto those who had offered the proper blood sacrifices for their sins.

2. In the New Testament, we can read in Hebrews 10:1-4 and Hebrews 10: 11, where it says that the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. These verses sound like they are in direct contradiction to one another, But we know that there are no contradictions in the Bible. Question- How are going to harmonize these verses? There is a verse in Rom. 4:17 that I believe will shed some light on this problem. Here is what it says. As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations. (Paul tells us in verse 16, who he is talking about.) He is talking about a conversation that God and Abraham had back in Gen. 12 and Gen 15. God told Abraham, (I have, made thee a father of many nations) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead and calleth those things, which be not, as though they were. The thing that Paul wants his readers to understand is, some times God speaks of things, which are yet in the future, just like they have already happened. Then he gives this example, to explain what he means. He says, that one time when God was talking to Abraham, He said. I have made you a father of many nations, and at the time God said this to him, He and Sarah did not even have any children. Yet God has just told him that you are already the father of many nations. So in God's eyes, He sees this, as something, that has already happened years ago.

So we can see that sometimes, that God calls non-existing things, just like they do exist. Because in God's eyes, they were existing at that time. Notice-- God did not say to Abraham, that some day in the near future, I will make you a father of many nations. He said I have already done that.

As we study this lesson, we must keep in our mind, that God planned

everything for the future of this world, before He ever created the first day. Lets read some verses that tells us this. In John 6:64 we read-- But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were, that believed not, and, who should betray him, and then Jesus continues his teaching in verse 70 when He says. Have not I chosen you twelve, and one on you is a devil.

Now lets notice, what Jesus is really saying here in this verse. He told all the twelve Apostles, I chose all you, knowing that one of you hath a devil. Did we hear that?

Question? Why did Jesus purposely choose a man who had a devil? Because, God's plan, included some one who would betray Jesus, which would lead to his crucifixion. Have we ever wondered how God could have his Prophet's, prophecy so many prophecies, and every one, of them come to pass exactly like they were prophesied, even to the smallest detail? How could this be? It is called, God's foreknowledge. This is the reason that God never makes a mistake, because He had already drawn up his Blue Print, exactly like He wanted it, before He created the first day.

Now, lets read Rev. 17:8. The beast that thou sawest, was, and is not, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. Question? What is John telling us here in this verse? It sounds to me like John is saying, before God, ever created the first day, that He made two lists of names. One list, had every name, of every person, who ever lived, and who lived faithful until death. The other list, had every name, of every person, who did not live by faith. They were the unbelievers, who had chosen not to live according to God's word. So all that He had to do, was to look into the hearts of people, and then write down their names, on these two lists.

Another example of God's foreknowledge is found in Rom. 9:17. For the scriptures saith unto Pharoah, even for this same purpose, have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. This verse tells us, that God knew years in advance. that his children were going to be in Egyptian captivity, and that they were going to need his help to be delivered. So God,hand picks him a man and raises him up, so he will be in line to the king of Egypt at the exact right time. Now lets remember what we have already studied, that God knows the heart of every person. So He picks him a man who is very stubborn and hard hearted. The reason God must have a man like this, is because He has chosen this time, to show the world his Power, and that His Name might be made known throughout the world.

Maybe we should define the word foreknowledge before we go on. It means knowing reality, before it ever becomes real, or knowing events before they occur. God had the ability to this.

Now lets go back to our first subject of this study, and that is in the Old Testament, when God says, your sins are forgiven. Does that mean, at that moment, their sins are eternally forgiven, and never to be remembered again? We will now go to the scriptures and see if we can find our answer. In Heb. 9:7. But into the second, went the High Priests, alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people. In Heb. 10:3-4. But in those sacrifices, there is a remembrance again, made of sins every year because it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin.

Question? If those living under the laws of the Old Testament, had their sins forgiven eternally, then why was it necessary for them, to offer a blood sacrifice once a year? Because, their sins were not forgiven eternally. So God made sure, that they knew that, by having them, upon a certain day of each year, that they All, come together for One specific reason and that was, a remembrance of their sins be made.

I believe it might help to read Heb. 9:13-15. For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh. 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. And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions, that were under the First Testament, they which are called, might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

These three verses points out to us, the purpose of the blood of bulls and goats was to the sanctifying and the purifying of the flesh. It does not say, that it will sanctify or purify the eternal soul. But the Blood of Jesus, will completely and eternally cleanse us of all sins, never to be remembered again.

We also learn from this verse, that Jesus blood, not only cleanses us from our sins, but also redeemed them, who had transgressed against God's law under the Old Testament.

Something else we need to notice in this last verse is, that not only the believers who lived under the New Testament, will receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, but also the believers under the Old Testament will receive it. Note what a perfect plan of redemption that God has for everyone, regardless of the time period in which we lived.

The Apostle Paul, in Gal. 2:21 seems to me like, gives us a very simple commentary on these verses that we have just read. He writes. I do not frustrate the grace of God, for if Righteousness, came by the Law, then Christ died in vain. The Hebrew writer says about the same thing in Heb. 7:19. For the Law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a Better Hope did, by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Question? Can a person be made righteous, without the forgiveness of sin? I don't believe so. If this reasoning be true, then forgiveness of sin did not come under the Old Law.

Another Question? Can a person be perfect, without the forgiveness

of sin? I don't believe so. If this then, be true, forgiveness of sin could not be had, under the Old Law.

Now, lets read what the Hebrew writer said about the Believers who lived during the Patriarchal age. Those who died in the faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth. Heb 11:13.

We can read in Gen. 3:15, about the First Promise of the seed line, through which Jesus was to come. We can again read about this promise in Gen. 12:3. And I will bless them, that bless thee, and curse them who curse thee, and in thee shall, All families of the earth be blessed. And in Gen. 18:18. Abraham shall become a mighty nation, and all of the nations of the earth, shall be blessed in him.

Question? What is the main thing that we should learn from these verses? Ans. That through the seed line of Abraham, all nations of the earth will be blessed, when this seed line is fulfilled.

This Promise was renewed with Isaac, and Jacob. Then we read in Gen. 49:10, where the Promise was renewed with Judah, one of Jacob's sons. And then we read in 2 Sam. 7:12, where God tells David. And when thy days are fulfilled, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

In Matt. 1:20-21, We read. Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Spirit, and she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shall call his name Jesus, for He shall save His People, from their sins.

Question? According to verse 21, what was this seed line (Who was Jesus) to accomplish? Ans. To save His People from their sins. Another Question? Who were Jesus' People? We can find the answer to this question in Matt. 10:5-6. These twelve, Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, Go not into the ways of the Gentiles, nor into the cities of the Samaritans, but go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. So here we learn, who His People were. They were the Israelites, because they are all descendants of Abraham,

just like Jesus was.

Question? Who was the lost sheep of the house of Israel? Ans. They were all Israelites who had died in the faith, whose sins had separated them from God. The completed act of forgiveness, could not take place, until Jesus came, and kept the Law perfectly, and thus become a Perfect Offering, for sins of All People, past, present, and future.

But still the Question may come up, and we may say, well, Nathan the Prophet said to David in 2 Sam. 12:13, The Lord hath put away your sin. You shall not die.

How can we harmonize this, with the verses that we have already studied, that say. The Law could never, take away sin. One thing for sure is, All Scriptures must harmonize, or we do not have the truth. The One thought, that comes from Rom. 4:17, which we have already studied. I believe we need to bring it back into our study, because it really helps me, in my understanding of this subject. Here is what it teaches. Sometimes, God speaks of things, which are still in the future, just like they have already happened. Time, to God, means very little. Lets read 2 Pet. 3:8. Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

So now one thing is sure, and that is, sometimes God speaks, of things in the future, just like, they are already in existence. The Bible said this, not me.

This may not help others, but it sure helps me. If this verse does not help you, then you need to find some other way, to harmonize these verses. Because, we read in 1 Pet. 3:15. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always, to give an answer to every man, that asketh you a reason, of the hope, that is in you, with meekness and fear.

There is another word, that we need to study in this lesson, and that is the word Bondage. We read in Heb. 2:14-15. Where Jesus, in his death would deliver those, who through the fear of death, were all their lifetime, subject to Bondage. Question? What kind of Bondage

were they in? Whatever it was, it brought fear to them, until they died. Now lets read some more verses on this subject of bondage, while we are searching for answers.

Acts 15:10. Now why tempt your God, to put a yoke, upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear.

Gal. 5:1. Stand fast therefore, in the liberty where in Christ hath made us free and not be entangled again, with the Yoke of Bondage.

Matt. 11:28-30. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my Yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my Yoke is easy, and my Burden is light.

Question? What is this Yoke, that the Apostle said, that neither they of that time, nor their fathers were able to bear? We can find the answer in Rom. 7:24-Rom. 8:1-2. In the verses previous to these verses, Paul is telling us, just how terrible it was, trying to keep the Law of Moses. And in verse 24, he says. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me, from the body of this death? In the next verses, he says I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is therefore, now, no condemnation, to them who are in Jesus Christ, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free, from the Law of Sin and Death.

After reading and studying these verses, we find that Bondage, can also be called a Yoke. And what ever this Yoke or this Bondage required, man could not keep it.

We have just read where Paul also, could not keep it. He calls it the Law of Sin and Death. This leads us to another Question, that we must Answer. What is a Law of Sin and Death? It is a Law, when broken, causes us to be wretched, and fearful. It is a Law, that no human being could keep. We read in 2 Cor. 3:6. That the Letter of the Law killeth. In verse 7. The Law is called a Ministration of Death, and in verse 9. The Law is called the Ministration of Condemnation. The apostle Paul tells us in Rom. 8:3, why man could not keep the Law. It

was because the Law was weak through the flesh, which to me means, that human nature, cannot keep Divine Laws.

In Gal. 3:10, Paul says. Cursed, is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them.

Question? When was this Law of Sin and Death put into effect? We can find the answer in Gen. 2:17, where it says. The Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day, that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. This is a Law that says, eat of this tree, and you shall die. Thus the Law of Sin and Death.

Question? Did the word death here, mean Physical or Spiritual? It means Spiritual. How do we know this? Because, this verse says, the day you eat, you shall die. We read in Gen. 5:5, where Adam lived to be 930 yrs. of age. So he did not die Physically the day he ate.

Question? What does Spiritual death mean? Isaiah 59:2 says. Our sins, will separate us, from the presence of God. Question? Did Adam and Eve's sin separate them from the presence of God? Yes it did. We read in Gen. 3:24. So God, drove them out of the garden and placed Cherubims and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep them away from the Tree of Life.

Question? Was this Law of Sin and Death passed on to all generations, after Adam, or did it come, to a close after Adam died? We can find the answer in 1 Cor. 15:22 where it says. For in Adam All die. Then we can read in Rom. 5:12 where Paul says. Wherefore as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon All men, for All have sinned. So in these two verses, it plainly says, that the Law of Sin and Death, was passed on to All generations after Adam. Now lets not forget, what the penalty was, when a person sinned. It was, Separation from God. We read in Rom. 3:1. As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one. Also in Rom. 3:23. For All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. What are these verses telling us? They are saying, that Every Person, has sinned against God. What does this mean? The verse says All have sinned, which would mean All have broken the Law of Sin and Death and are separated from God, because of unforgiven sins. I believe that the Yoke, that Peter talks about in Acts 15:10, that their fathers nor they were able to bear, was the Law of Sin and Death. And also the Bondage that they were held under was the Law

of Sin and Death. If their sins had completely been removed, what other Bondage could they be under? We read in Luke 4:18, where Jesus said, along with other things, I came to preach Deliverance to the Captives.

Question? Who were the ones, that Jesus was referring to, that were captives? I believe He was referring to those who were the captives, under the Law of Sin and Death. From what the scriptures say, that we have already read, it seems that the words Yoke, Bondage, Captivity and Captives, are all referring to the condition, that God's chosen people, found themselves in. After they had sinned, their conscience was never freed from past sins. That was the reason that Jesus came and shed his Blood so that the conscience could be forever set free from past sins. (Heb. 9:9)

Before Paul became an Apostle, He said some things that could help us here, in some of our thinking. In Rom. 7:10, He said. I thought the commandments was ordained to give life, but I found out that it brought death. Verse 11 says. But when you break the Law, the Law kills you.

No wonder that Paul would cry out in Rom. 7:24. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death? So then Paul answered this all important question. He said I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So Paul is saying, Jesus come to save people from the Law of Sin and Death. Because the blood of bulls and goats could not in and of its self, take away sin. It was only a shadow of the true, which was to come. (Heb 10:1) Jesus came and died on the cross and shed his Blood for the Redemption of the sins that were committed under the First Testament.

Lets read what Paul writes in Gal. 3:21. Is the Law against the Promises of God? God forbid. For if there had been a Law given that could have given life, then Righteousness should have been by the Law. Paul is telling us in this verse, that it was not the purpose of the Law, to give eternal life. Gal. 3:24 tells us the purpose of the Law. It was a School Master to bring us to Christ. So Jesus came, to give us back the eternal life that we lost, when we first sinned against God.

We read in Gal. 4:4-5. But, when the Fullness of Time came, God

sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the Law to redeem them, that were under the Law, that we might receive the Adoption as Sons. The word Redeem in the Greek means the extension of the act of purchasing something. This really helps us to better understand the Plan of God in the Old Testament for the salvation of man. God's Plan in the Old Testament was not a completed plan. It was only a plan, that was in progress. So Jesus was, an extension, to God's Plan in Redeeming man. It was Christ's Blood, that paid the Full Price for man's sins. Christ's Blood, was the Ransom that was paid, for the sins of those who had broken the Law of Sin and Death. Lets listen to what the Heb. writer says in Heb. 7:19. For the Law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a Better Hope did, by the which, we draw nigh unto God.

Question? If forgiveness of sin, under the Old Law, was eternally forgiven, wouldn't that make them Perfect? I believe it would. Heb. 8:7 says. For if that First Covenant had been faultless. then no place have been sought for the Second. Question? What was the fault that the First Testament had? It did, not provide, complete forgiveness of sin, but the Second Covenant did, through the shed Blood of Jesus.

In Heb.28:8-11 the Hebrew writer tells us some things about the New Covenant and then in verse 12 he says. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Here is what this verse means to me. Under the First Covenant, God was not merciful to their unrighteousness, or their iniquities or their sins because, they had to make a blood offering every year of a certain day, for a remembrance of their sins. Notice, the change under the Second Covenant. I will remember their sins no more. What a difference in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. Praise the Lord, we have been set free from the Law of Sin and Death.

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