

~ATONEMENT (574)

[English, compensation, amends, penance, penitence, Punishment, apology, reparation, recompense, Hebrew, *Ka-phar'* cover, wipe off]

- Man's Need For Atonement
- Atonement Sacrifices
- Fulfillment In Christ Jesus
- Reconciliation Made Possible
- Justice Satisfied By Propitiation
- Loving Provision Calls For Response Of Faith

• The **English** word atonement is derived from the expression at one and, as applied Biblically, **means a covering of sins**. In the **Hebrew** Scriptures terms pertaining to atonement appear many times, especially in the books of Leviticus and Numbers. *Ka-phar'* is the **Hebrew** word for making atonement, and probably it originally meant cover, though wipe off has also been suggested.

• Mans Need For Atonement

- Man is in need of sin covering, or **atonement**, due to inherited sin.
- In case they sin against you, **for there is no man that does not sin**, and you have to be incensed at them and abandon them to the enemy, and their captors actually carry them off captive to the land of the enemy distant or nearby. (**1 Kings 8:46**)
- Look! **With error I was brought forth with birth pains**, and in sin my mother conceived me. (**Psalms 51:5**)
- For **there is no man righteous in the earth** that keeps doing good and **does not sin**. (**Ecclesiastes 7:20**)
- For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God. (**Romans 3:23**)
- **Responsibility** for which **rests**, not with God, **but with man himself**.
- The Rock, **perfect is his activity**, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice. Righteous and upright is he. (**Deuteronomy 32:4**)

- **They have acted ruinously on their own part.** They are not his children, the defect is their own. A generation crooked and twisted! (**Deuteronomy 32:5**)
- **Adam, who lost everlasting life in human perfection, bequeathed sin and death to his offspring**
- **That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned. (Romans 5:12)**
- **And Adam's descendants therefore came under condemnation to death. If humankind was to regain the opportunity to enjoy everlasting life, then, in harmony with a legal principle that Yehowah later included in the Mosaic Law, namely, that like must go for like, exact atonement would be required for what had been lost by Adam.**
- **And your eye should not feel sorry, soul will be for soul, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (Deuteronomy 19:21)**
- **As used in the Bible, atonement has the basic thought of cover or exchange, and that which is given in exchange for, or as a cover for, another thing must be its duplicate.**
- **Thus, anything making satisfaction for something that is lost or forfeited must be at one with that other thing, completely covering it as its exact equivalent. There must be no overlapping and no coming short. No imperfect human could provide such a covering or atonement to restore perfect human life to any or all of mankind.**
- **Not one of them can by any means redeem even a brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (Psalms 49:7)**
- **And the redemption price of their soul is so precious that it has ceased to time indefinite. (Psalms 49:8)**
- **To make adequate atonement for what was forfeited by Adam, a sin offering having the precise value of a perfect human life would have to be provided.**
- **Yehowah God instituted an arrangement for atonement among the Israelites that typified a greater atonement provision. It is Yehowah and not man who is to be credited with determining and**

revealing the means of **atonement** for covering inherited sin and providing relief from the resulting condemnation to death.

•• **Atonement Sacrifices**

- As God directed, the Israelites were to offer sacrifices as sin offerings in order to make **atonement**.
- And you will offer the bull of the sin offering daily for an **atonement**, and you must purify the altar from sin by your making atonement over it, and you must anoint it to sanctify it. (**Exodus 29:36**)
- And he must do to the bull just as he did to the other bull of the sin offering. That is the way he will do to it, and the priest must make an **atonement** for them, and so it must be forgiven them. (**Leviticus 4:20**)
- Of particular significance was the annual **Atonement Day**, when Israel's High Priest **offered animal sacrifices** and made **atonement** for himself, for the other Levites, and for the non-priestly tribes of Israel. (**Leviticus Chapter 16**)
- Sacrificial animals were to be unblemished, indicating the necessity of perfection on the part of their antitype. Also, that **atonement** is a **costly matter** is shown in that the **victims life was given, its blood being shed to make atonement**.
- For the soul of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have put it upon the altar for you to make **atonement** for your souls, because it is the **blood that makes atonement by the soul in it**. (**Leviticus 17:11**)
- Sin offerings made by the Israelites and the various features of the yearly **Day of Atonement** undoubtedly impressed upon their minds the **seriousness of their sinful state** and their **great need of complete atonement**. However, **animal sacrifices could not completely atone for human sin** because beasts are inferior to man, who was given dominion over them.
- Further, God blessed them and God said to them; Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and **have in subjection** the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth.

(Genesis 1:28)

- What is mortal man that you keep him in mind, and the son of earthling man that you take care of him? (**Psalms 8:4**)
- You also proceeded to make **him a little less than godlike ones**, and with glory and splendor you then crowned him. (**Psalms 8:5**)
- You make him **dominate over the works of your hands**, everything you have put under his feet. (**Psalms 8:6**)
- Small cattle and oxen, all of them, and also the beasts of the open field. (**Psalms 8:7**)
- The birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, anything passing through the paths of the seas. (**Psalms 8:8**)
- For since the **Law has a shadow** of the good things to come, but **not the very substance of the things**, **men can never with the same sacrifices from year to year which they offer continually make those who approach perfect.** (**Hebrews 10:1**)
- Otherwise, would the **sacrifices not have stopped being offered**, because those rendering sacred service who had been **cleansed once for all time** would have no consciousness of sins anymore? (**Hebrews 10:2**)
- To the contrary, by these sacrifices there is a reminding of sins from year to year. (**Hebrews 10:3**)
- For it is **not possible** for the **blood of bulls and of goats to take sins away.** (**Hebrews 10:4**)

See Also ATONEMENT DAY

See Also OFFERINGS

•• Fulfillment In Christ Jesus

- The **Christian Greek Scriptures** plainly link complete **atonement** for **human sins with Jesus Christ**. In him the types and shadows of the Mosaic Law find fulfillment, since he is the very One to whom the various animal sacrifices thereof pointed forward. As a **perfect, sinless human**, **Jesus was the sin offering for all of Adam's descendants** who eventually are delivered from inherited sin and death.

- The one who did not know sin **he made to be sin for us**, that we might become God's righteousness by means of him. (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)
- Christ **offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually**.
- But this man offered **one sacrifice for sins perpetually** and sat down at the right hand of God. (**Hebrews 10:12**)
- And he is unquestionably **the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world**.
- The next day he beheld Jesus coming toward him, and he said, See, the Lamb of God that **takes away the sin of the world!** (**John 1:29**)
- And as he looked at Jesus walking he said; See, the **Lamb of God!** (**John 1:36**)
- Clear away the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, according as you are free from ferment. For, indeed, **Christ our Passover has been sacrificed**. (**1 Corinthians 5:7**)
- Saying with a loud voice; The **Lamb that was slaughtered** is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. (**Revelation 5:12**)
- And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. The name of not one of them stands written in the scroll of life of the **Lamb who was slaughtered**, from the founding of the world. (**Revelation 13:8**)
- He was hard pressed, and he was letting himself be afflicted, yet he would not open his mouth. He was being brought **just like a sheep to the slaughtering**. Like a ewe that before her shearers has become mute, he also would not open his mouth. (**Isaiah 53:7**)
- **Forgiveness** is **dependent on the pouring out of blood**
- Yes, nearly all things are cleansed with blood according to the Law, and **unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place**. (**Hebrews 9:22**)

- **And Christians who are walking in the light are assured that the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- **However, if we are walking in the light as he himself is in the light, we do have a sharing with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)**
- **For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. (Hebrews 9:13)**
- **Jesus unblemished body was necessary under the Law as for any sacrifice, but what Jesus offered to God that Adam lacked was an everlasting spirit of obedience and his life in fulfillment of this spirit made atonement. Adam's spirit was not right with God and this caused him to sin.**
- **How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)**
- **And from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, The firstborn from the dead, and The Ruler of the kings of the earth. To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood. (Revelation 1:5)**
- **Jesus perfect human life offered in sacrifice is the antitypical sin offering. It is the valuable thing that accomplishes the purchase of mankind, redeeming them from inherited sin and death.**
- **While we wait for the happy hope and glorious manifestation of the great God and of the Savior of us, Christ Jesus. (Titus 2:13)**
- **Who gave himself for us that he might deliver us from every sort of lawlessness and cleanse for himself a people peculiarly his own, zealous for fine works. (Titus 2:14)**
- **But we behold Jesus, who has been made a little lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, that he by God's undeserved kindness might taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)**

- **Christ himself declared; The Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom Greek, *ly'tron*, in exchange for many.**
- **For even the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many. (Mark 10:45)**
- **His sacrifice atoned exactly for what was forfeited by the sinner Adam, since Jesus was perfect and hence Adam's equal prior to the first man's sin.**
- **For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5)**
- **Who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all, this is what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times. (1 Timothy 2:6)**
- **By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness. (Ephesians 1:7)**

See Also RANSOM

•• Reconciliation Made Possible

- **Human sin causes division between God and man, for **Yehowah does not approve of sin**. The **breach** between man and his Creator could be healed only by fulfillment of the requisite of a true **covering**, or **atonement**, for such sin.**
- **No, but the **very errors of you people** have become the things **causing division** between you and your God, and your own sins have caused the **concealing of his face from you** to keep from hearing. (Isaiah 59:2)**
- **You are too pure in eyes to see what is bad, and to look on trouble you are not able. Why is it that you look on those dealing treacherously, that you keep silent when someone wicked swallows up someone more righteous than he is? (Habakkuk 1:13)**
- **Yes, among them we all at one time conducted ourselves in**

harmony with the desires of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and the thoughts, and we were naturally children of wrath even as the rest. (**Ephesians 2:3**)

- But Yehowah God has made **reconciliation** between himself and sinful mankind possible **through the perfect man Jesus Christ**. Thus, the apostle Paul wrote.
- And not only that, but we are also exulting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation**. (**Romans 5:11**)
- To come into Yehowah's favor, it is necessary to accept God's provision for **reconciliation** through Jesus Christ. Only by this means is it possible to come into a **position comparable to that of Adam prior to his sin**. God's love is displayed in making such reconciliation possible.
- For, indeed, Christ, while we were yet weak, **died for ungodly men at the appointed time**. (**Romans 5:6**)
- For hardly will anyone die for a righteous man, indeed, for the good man, perhaps, someone even dares to die. (**Romans 5:7**)
- But God recommends his own love to us in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**. (**Romans 5:8**)
- Much more, therefore, since we have been declared righteous now by his blood, **shall we be saved through him from wrath**. (**Romans 5:9**)
- For if, when we were enemies, we became **reconciled** to God through the death of his Son, much more, now that we have become **reconciled**, we shall be saved by his life. (**Romans 5:10**)

See Also RECONCILIATION

•• **Justice Satisfied By Propitiation**

- Still, justice required satisfaction. Man, though created perfect, fell from that state through sin and thus Adam and his offspring came under God's condemnation. Justice and fidelity to principles of righteousness necessitated that God execute the sentence of his Law against disobedient Adam.

- **But love moved God to purpose a substitutional arrangement whereby justice would be satisfied, and yet without any violation of justice, repentant offspring of sinner Adam could be forgiven and could achieve peace with God.**
- **Because God saw good for all fullness to dwell in him. (Colossians 1:19)**
- **And through him to reconcile again to himself all other things by making peace through the blood he shed on the torture stake, no matter whether they are the things upon the earth or the things in the heavens. (Colossians 1:20)**
- **Indeed, you who were once alienated and enemies because your minds were on the works that were wicked. (Colossians 1:21)**
- **He now has again reconciled by means of that one's fleshly body through his death, in order to present you holy and unblemished and open to no accusation before him. (Colossians 1:22)**
- **Provided, of course, that you continue in the faith, established on the foundation and steadfast and not being shifted away from the hope of that Good News which you heard, and which was preached in all creation that is under heaven. Of this Good News I Paul became a minister. (Colossians 1:23)**
- **Therefore, Yehowah sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins.**
- **The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)**
- **Consequently he was obliged to become like his brothers in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)**
- **Propitiation is that which makes propitious, or favorable. Jesus propitiatory sacrifice removes the reason for God to condemn a human creature and makes possible the extending to him of God's favor and mercy. This propitiation removes the charge of sin and the resulting condemnation to death in the case of Spiritual Israel and all others availing themselves of it.**

- **My little children, I am writing you these things that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. (1 John 2:1)**
- **And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world's. (1 John 2:2)**
- **For the wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)**
- **The idea of substitution is prominent in certain Biblical texts relating to atonement. For instance, Paul observed that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.**
- **For I handed on to you, among the first things, that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3)**
- **Christ by purchase released us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse instead of us, because it is written: Accursed is every man hanged upon a stake. (Galatians 3:13)**
- **His dead body should not stay all night on the stake, but you should by all means bury him on that day, because something accursed of God is the one hung up, and you must not defile your soil, which Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance. (Deuteronomy 21:23)**
- **He himself bore our sins in his own body upon the stake, in order, that we might be done with sins and live to righteousness. And by his stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)**
- **But he was being pierced for our transgression, he was being crushed for our errors. The chastisement meant for our peace was upon him, and because of his wounds there has been a healing for us. (Isaiah 53:5)**
- **Peter also wrote.**
- **Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, that he might lead you to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in**

the spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)

·· Loving Provision Calls For Response Of Faith

- **Love** has been exemplified by God and Christ in connection with the provision of complete **atonement** for inherited human sins.
- For God **loved** the world so much that he **gave his only-begotten Son**, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
- He who **did not even spare his own Son but delivered him up for us all**, why will he not also with him kindly give us all other things? (Romans 8:32)
- By this we have come to know **love**, because **that one surrendered his soul for us**, and we are under obligation to surrender our souls for our brothers. (1 John 3:16)
- However, to benefit therefrom a person must be truly repentant and he must exercise faith. Yehowah was **not pleased** with **Judah's sacrifices when offered without the proper attitude**.
- Hear the word of Yehowah, you dictators of Sodom. Give **ear to the Law of our God, you people of Gomorrah**. (Isaiah 1:10)
- **Of what benefit to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?** Says Yehowah. **I have had enough** of whole burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed animals, and in the blood of young bulls and male lambs and he-goats I have taken no delight. (Isaiah 1:11)
- When you people keep coming in to see my face, who is it that has required this from your hand, to trample my courtyards? (Isaiah 1:12)
- Stop **bringing in any more valueless grain offerings**. Incense, it is something detestable to me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of a convention, I cannot put up with the use of uncanny power along with the solemn assembly. (Isaiah 1:13)
- Your new moons and your festal seasons my soul has hated. To me they have become a burden, I have become tired of bearing them. (Isaiah 1:14)

- And when you spread out your palms, **I hide my eyes from you.** Even though you make many prayers, **I am not listening, with bloodshed your very hands have become filled.** (Isaiah 1:15)
- Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Remove the badness of your dealings from in front of my eyes. Cease to do bad. (Isaiah 1:16)
- **Learn to do good.** Search for justice. Set right the oppressor. Render judgment for the fatherless boy. Plead the cause of the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)
- **God sent Christ forth as an offering for propitiation through faith in his blood.**
- But now **apart from Law God's righteousness has been made manifest,** as it is borne witness to by the Law and the Prophets. (Romans 3:21)
- Yes, God's righteousness through **the faith in Jesus Christ, for all those having faith.** For there is no distinction. (Romans 3:22)
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- And it is as a free gift that they are being **declared righteous by his undeserved kindness** through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)
- God set him forth as an offering for propitiation through faith in his blood. This was in order to exhibit his own righteousness, **because he was forgiving the sins that occurred in the past while God was exercising forbearance.** (Romans 3:25)
- So as to exhibit his own righteousness in this present season, that he might be righteous even when **declaring righteous the man that has faith in Jesus.** (Romans 3:26)
- Those who in faith accept God's provision for **atonement** through Jesus Christ can gain salvation, those who spurn it cannot.
- Furthermore, **there is no salvation in anyone else,** for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by

which we must get saved. (Acts of Apostles 4:12)

- **And, for any who practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, but there is a certain fearful expectation of judgment.**
- **For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left. (Hebrews 10:26)**
- **But there is a certain fearful expectation of judgment and there is a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition. (Hebrews 10:27)**
- **Any man that has disregarded the Law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. (Hebrews 10:28)**
- **Of how much more severe a punishment, do you think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt? (Hebrews 10:29)**
- **For we know him that said; Vengeance is mine. I will recompense. And again; Yehowah will judge his people. (Hebrews 10:30)**
- **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:31)**