



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#122)
Why do we need Jesus?

1

JOHN ANSWERS THE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS!

➔

The rest of New Testament fills in the details.

JOHN TOLD THE PEOPLE:

- ✓ They needed to **repent**... and have a changed life.
- ✓ They needed to **look Jesus**... who would make this change possible.

THIS IS HOW JOHN DESCRIBED JESUS:

- ❖ He was the "lamb." He would become the sacrifice to take away their sins.
- ❖ He was the **Son of God**. He had the power to change them by baptizing them with the Holy Spirit.

2

CHANGE is necessary and it can happen.

- ✓ Ever since sin entered the world, people have had an obligation to... **repent, trust God, confess their sins, live godly lives, etc.**
- ✓ When they did these things, God changed their hearts.

But this leaves 2 ISSUES UNRESOLVED:

1. How/Why could such a change occur?
2. How/Why could people NOT have to pay the penalty for their sins?

God doesn't deal with sin by shutting his eyes and *pretending* it doesn't exist. It **must** be paid for. Payment can be delayed (as it was in the Old Testament). But the only way to deal with it is to pay.

3

How/Why could such a change occur?

It's not our nature to be righteous! Nor is it within our ability to get there - even if we *wanted* to!

As Job said... Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one! Job 14:4 (NIV)

How then can a mortal be righteous before God? Job 25:4a (NIV)

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. Romans 7:18 (NLT)

There is no one who does what is good, not even one. Romans 3:12 (CSB)

4

How/Why could people NOT have to pay the penalty for their sins?

For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23a (CSB)

... we were by nature deserving of wrath. Ephesians 2:3b (NIV)

... what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? ... Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? Romans 3:5b, 6 (NIV)

Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. James 1:15 (NET)

Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned. Romans 5:12 (GW)

5

"Somehow"...

For those who chose to repent and follow the God of the Bible, *these things did occur*. (They did change, and won't have to pay.)

But the "how" and "why" remained a mystery.

- ⇨ *Until God introduced Jesus to John.**
- ⇨ *And John introduced Jesus to the people.*

GOD SENT JOHN FOR THIS PURPOSE

GOD TOLD JOHN HOW TO RECOGNIZE JESUS

"I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

"I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John 1:31, 33-34 (ESV)

* (John might have known Jesus as a distant relative; but he did *not* know that Jesus would be doing these things.)

6

✦ JESUS is the answer to the mystery! ✦

... the **mystery** hidden for ages in God who created all things.
Ephesians 3:9 (CSB)

... the **mystery** hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

... this **mystery**, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.
Colossians 1:26, 27b (ESV)

⇒ **Yet before the answer came, people had some hints about the answer.**

- God gave them symbolism that was like a "picture" of what would come. It was like a "shadow" of the "reality" that eventually come into view.
- They **knew** that God would take care of the problem, and they **knew** that they could trust God, *even though they did not have the full answer.*

7


THEY SAW THE PICTURE, THE SHADOW.

- Not the "real thing," but enough, and sufficient until the "real thing" would arrive.
- What did they see? What temporary measure pointed to the ultimate answer?

→ **THE ANIMAL SACRIFICES AND THE RELATED CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES.**

- These things didn't take away the sin nature ... but pointed to the one who would.
- They didn't do away the need for judgment ... but postponed it until someone else would come to be judged, to pay the penalty as a *substitute* for us.

**I SEE HIS PICTURE!
I SEE HIS SHADOW!
SOMEDAY, I'LL SEE HIM IN PERSON!**



8

THE PICTURE
THE SHADOW
THE SHADOW

The animal sacrifices were only **TEMPORARY** covering of the people's sins.

They pointed to the **PERMANENT** things that Jesus would one day do.

→ **The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves.** The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they **were never able to provide perfect cleansing** for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.

But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. **For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**
Hebrews 10:1-4 (NLT)

THE OLD COVENANT.

9

THE REALITY

Jesus, as both Son of God and the "lamb," was fully qualified to **offer** the sacrifice... and to **be** the sacrifice.

He was our sinless volunteer, ready to take away our sin!
He would fulfil the role of BOTH high priest and sacrifice!

For we do not have a **high priest** who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet **without sin**.
Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

THE NEW COVENANT, AS PROMISED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT!

(THE TRANSITION OCCURRED ON THE CROSS.)

First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses). Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." **He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect.** For God's will was for us to be made holy by **the sacrifice** of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.
Hebrews 10:8-10 (NLT)

10

✦ JESUS answers the two unanswered questions! ✦

- **He** accomplished **both** of the changes **we** could not accomplish:
 - ① our forgiveness and
 - ② our change in nature!

ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE NEW COVENANT!

For by that one offering he forever **made perfect** those who are being **made holy**.

And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, "This is the **new covenant** I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."
Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

And when sins have been **forgiven**, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.
Hebrews 10:14-18 (NLT)

✓ **CHANGE IN NATURE!**

✓ **SINS PAID FOR!**

(THESE ARE OLD TESTAMENT QUOTES!)

11

HE ACCOMPLISHED IT THROUGH "THE GREAT EXCHANGE"!

We need to understand that sin isn't just something we **do**. It's our nature; it's something we **are**. (We might as well say "We **are** sin.")

BEFORE:

JESUS
I **AM** RIGHTEOUSNESS!
(I have NO sin!)

US
I **AM** SIN!

"THE GREAT EXCHANGE"

God made him who had no sin to **be sin** for us, so that in him we might **become the righteousness of God**.
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

AFTER:

I **AM** SIN!

I **AM** RIGHTEOUSNESS!
(But it's actually God's.)

→ **IN THIS CONDITION, HE WAS PUT TO DEATH. HE PAID IN FULL.**

12

✦ The **REALITY** is so much greater than the **PICTURE!** ✦

There wasn't just death; there was resurrection!

⇒ John described Jesus as the lamb and as the Son of God.

⇒ As the lamb, Jesus could actually pay the penalty. As the Son of God, he had power to pay it in full. (As infinite deity, he could pay, in a short time, a payment that would take us all eternity.)

⇒ **Once paid, there was nothing left to keep him in the grave.**

... it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.
Acts 2:24 (NIV)

- It is because of his resurrection that we can have life!

13

IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS RESURRECTION THAT WE HAVE LIFE!

★ **And there's a "picture" to illustrate it!** ★

- We can have life, because of our UNION with Christ.
 - When Jesus became sin, in God's eyes, he became us.
So in God's eyes, when he was punished, we were punished.
When he died, we died.
And when he rose to life... so did we!
- This union with Christ – in both death and life – is pictured by **BAPTISM!**
 - We were therefore buried **with him** through **baptism** into **death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new life**.
Romans 6:4 (NIV)

14

MERCY and JUSTICE are brought together!

In this **GREAT EXCHANGE**, *everything God did was a demonstration of justice and righteousness.*

- It was **not** the result of arbitrary "rule changing" about salvation and forgiveness. It wasn't as though God suddenly decided to pretend our sin didn't exist.
- It was an **act of mercy*** – not by ignoring our sin (so we wouldn't have to pay for it), but by transferring it to another (who would pay it in our behalf).
- In it, **God could maintain justice, and still justify (declare righteous) sinners.** **WE READ ABOUT THIS IN ROMANS 3.**

* (The world's idea of "mercy" seems to be one of ignoring sin – letting the person get away with it, unpunished. In it, they cancel justice and righteousness. (In contrast, God's mercy is an affirmation of justice and righteousness.)

15

JESUS' SACRIFICE IS THE PAYMENT THAT ALLOWS GOD TO NOT PUNISH THOSE WILLING TO TRUST JESUS.

Without it, the unpunished sins of the Old Testament believers would have left God's righteousness in question... *because sin has to be paid for.*

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.
He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—
he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just [= righteous] and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
Romans 3:25-26 (NIV)

This sacrifice of Jesus (which Jesus willingly suffered for us) proves that God is, indeed, righteous and just. Even though we don't pay the penalty we deserve, **it is still paid in our behalf.**
This is how sinners, who deserve to pay, don't have to pay.

16

Considering all these things, what should **OUR MISSION** be?

⇒ Pay attention to **John!**

(Those who do so will pay attention to **Jesus** and will follow him!)

After all...
Jesus IS the answer!

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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