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## Jesus Died...So, Who Benefits?

**Leviticus 17:11: (NASB) *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.***



As Christians, we believe that we have been given the answer for the major dilemma of life. That dilemma is sin and ultimately death. We believe that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus put back in balance what Adam's sin originally put out of balance. The problem is this: We as Christians cannot agree as to whom to apply that sacrifice. Is it for all - every man and woman who ever lived, or is it for only the few who have ever followed after Jesus? Stay with us as we take an honest and scriptural look at this very big and important question!

**First of all, why does God seem to be obsessed with blood?**

The context of these verses is Chapter 16 - all about the Atonement Day sacrifice:

Leviticus 17:1-5



**Observations:**

- God was clearly setting this people apart from all others.
- Sacrifices to God were to be brought only to the tabernacle and only through the priesthood. The priesthood had to bless the sacrifices that were made to God, which was very different than any of the other nations that were around them.
- This contrasted to the pagan worship rituals of individual sacrifices to gods made anywhere. We need to understand the importance of the fact that Israel was being set apart.

Leviticus 17:10-13: Why did God have such a focus on blood?

- Blood carries life and therefore death was not to be arbitrary.
- The life of the flesh is in the blood!
- Life is what brought atonement - the reason for sacrifice.

Atonement is "at-one-ment" with God. It was through the act of sacrifice that the nation could be brought back in harmony with God.

- Any other use of blood would take away from its meaning -> blood = life.

**Eclectic notes:** The lessons of the blood were so distinctive, and so vital to all their relations with God, that He would not allow any use of blood, which might enfeeble them. Blood was always to be connected in their thoughts with atonement.

God used blood as the picture of atonement. God is very specific about treatment of blood and saw blood as absolutely sacred. Hebrews 10:4

**Are blood and death really that important to God? What about love and life?**



**A bad system, Why Did God Want Jesus Sacrificed, Atheist Experience**

- *But this God specifically chose to say, "if you violate these things what I want you to do is go take another one of my creations, place it on an altar, slice it open, gut it, and burn it so that I can smell it and this will alleviate your sin." Now why does that system make sense and a more reasonable system, at least to me, is not used?*

Let's back up. We understand why blood is important as the symbol of life, so now let's apply that importance to the key events of human destiny. Let's go back to the very beginning. **A portion of the curse on Satan:** Genesis 3:15: A battle to the death and a veiled promise...life is on the line. Life out of harmony with God will not exist eternally. **A portion of the curse on Adam:** Genesis 3:19-22: Death was the certain penalty for sin. Life and death was the object of teaching. God needed to be sure that obedience was in place. There was a change of allegiance that Adam and Eve took by following the guidance and ideas of Satan. We're looking at the concept and the sacredness of blood attached to the most important **beginnings in life**.<sup>20</sup>Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

**The first beginning:** There had never been an animal sacrifice. Animals were living alongside of Adam and Eve in the Garden. Once Adam and Eve stepped out of harmony with God then God made garments for them from animal skin. So, there had to be an animal sacrifice made



to cover the nakedness of sinful man - blood was shed, perhaps as a symbol to show that sin brings shame which leads to death - all need covering with a sacrificed life...<sup>22</sup>*Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...And finally a banishing from eternal earthly life - this is a major part of what was lost. What was lost was earthly paradise. Adam and Eve were taken out of the context of loving and living under the rules of God and put into a context of living under the guidance of Satan. There was a sacrifice made to cover their shame. The shame came after the allegiance changed. That's where sacrifice was required in the eyes of God.*

**The next beginning:** Noah, upon leaving the Ark, offers sacrifices to God and receives commands: Genesis 9:3-7: Blood is again singled out as a sacred part of all life. That's why the sacrifice of Jesus had to be a blood sacrifice. It fits into the context of the importance of the sacredness of life. The sacrifices of animals were to represent the sacrifice of Jesus because life was sacred. Revelation 13:8: So, at **every beginning** there is the sacrifice of blood - for at each beginning there are life and death choices to be made. Blood is shed for atonement, the act of bringing humanity back in harmony with God. Now relating to Jesus, whom does that question of life and death and the answer of the shed blood of atonement apply to? **Some?** Luke 1:68 **Or all?** 2 Corinthians 5:19

### Can there really be a case for ALL being ransomed? Everyone?

Some views of the ransom are really confusing! (Source: Robin Collins, *Understanding Atonement: A New and Orthodox Theory*) Essentially, this theory claimed that Adam and Eve sold humanity over to the Devil at the time of The Fall; hence, justice required that God pay the Devil a ransom to free us from the Devil's clutches. God, however, tricked the Devil into accepting Christ's death as a ransom, for the Devil did not realize that Christ could not be held in the bonds of death. Once the Devil accepted Christ's death as a ransom, this theory concluded, justice was satisfied and God was able to free us from Satan's grip.

**The third beginning:** We believe that the ransom of Jesus was given for All mankind! It was to be applied to each human life that has ever lived. No matter what their belief system was, they will have a benefit from that ransom. Not a curse, but a benefit. **The following text will serve as a basis for proof on the perspective of the ransom for ALL:**

Romans 5:12-14: Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given - therefore the death penalty was clearly upon all humanity.

#### Moses' role for Israel was as a MEDIATOR

Galatians 3:19



**A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.**

#### Jesus' role for the Non-BELIEVER is as a MEDIATOR

1 Timothy 2:5-6



**A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.**

**A New Testament view helps us to see the process that God's plan of salvation had in place:** Galatians 3:19-22: (Aha! Given to those who believe!!!) **What does a mediator do?** 1 Timothy 2:5-6: This "mediator" relationship is describing the role of Jesus with the whole world before God. The mediator of the Law for Israel was Moses - the mediator of grace for the world is Jesus! Jesus is being pictured in Moses. Romans 3:19-21

**By the way, what was the promise given to those that believe?** Genesis 22:17-18: The promise is in two parts. The promise is to be blessed and to bless. All the nations of the world are to be blessed. Galatians 3:29: If you are inheriting the promise because you belong to Christ, the promise is to be able to bless all the families of the earth. So, if you are blessing all the families of the earth, it comes through Jesus who is the seed of Abraham. It is through Jesus that we, the followers of Christ, inherit the ability to bless all the families of the earth.

There seems to be a very clear-cut focus on looking at salvation through Jesus through two sets of eyes. The first set of eyes belongs to those who follow after Christ. The second set of eyes belongs to the rest of the world who see through the experience of those who follow after Christ and thereby gain salvation's opportunity.



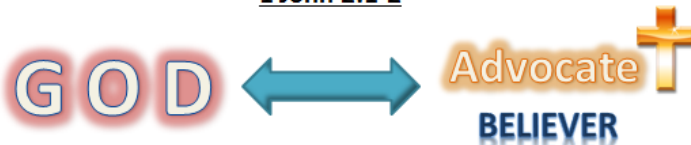
But the Bible uses the words "all" and "the world" and doesn't really mean everyone!

Right! Here is proof: Genesis 41:57 John 15:18 Luke 2:1: So, how do you tell if "all" really is "all," etc...? The context clarifies the meaning. For example, "You look blue," or, "Look at that blue sky!" The context clarifies the meaning.

Romans 5 clearly shows all - but especially a "few..." Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>*But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, (the many MUST mean all humanity according to the above context) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This MUST mean the same "many")* <sup>16</sup>*The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand, the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.* <sup>17</sup>*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (again, who did death reign over? Everyone!) Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! This shows a reign for them in heaven - they are given an exclusive authority.)* 1 Timothy 4:10: Two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom!

Jesus' role for the BELIEVER is as an ADVOCATE

1 John 2:1-2



An **ADVOCATE** is someone who sits with you on your side, one who pleads another's cause before a judge.

**The advocate concept:** 1 John 2:1-2: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;* <sup>2</sup>*and he himself is the propitiation (meaning "satisfaction") for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

So, this "advocate" relationship is describing those whom Jesus stands for vs. those whom he mediates for - two different classes of people with positive effects from the Ransom.

For the followers of Jesus, Jesus is an advocate. For the rest of the world of mankind, Jesus is a mediator. 1 Peter 2:7-10: So, unbelievers are separated out in this verse as disobedient. There were prophecies that already predicted this would happen long before Jesus even came.

<sup>9</sup>*But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim (but proclaim to whom?) the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;* <sup>10</sup>*for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. On the contrary, the chosen are elevated to several titles - what do those titles mean?* Hebrews 12:23

**When we think of the first born, what do we think of?** Exodus 12:13 1 Corinthians 5:7

What do we have? **Sacrifice + Blood = Deliverance!** Who for? The firstborn first, then the whole nation! The ransom of Jesus applies first to the firstborn and then to everyone else. The path is different, but both paths lead to freedom!

Adam's genetic makeup was flawed, so everybody inherited that. God provided a way to satisfy justice. He did not force His son. **Jesus volunteered!** Romans 5:18-21: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity MUST be included)* <sup>19</sup>*For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Again - this is about ALL humanity)* <sup>20</sup>*The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,* <sup>21</sup>*so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale!)*

Everybody inherits the bad; therefore it is just that everybody inherits the good! That is what God's plan is about in relation to the ransom of Jesus. God works through justice, but his grace is magnificent! Everyone will inherit the privilege of living under Jesus, just as everybody inherited the problem of living under Adam.



1 Timothy 2:3-4: (KJV) <sup>3</sup>*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;* <sup>4</sup>*Who will have all men to be saved (ransomed), and to come unto the **knowledge <1922>** of the truth.*

**Knowledge**: Strong's #1922 epignwsiv epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement:—(ac-)knowledge(-ing, -ment).

**This is BACKWARDS from what we understand as the Christian approach:** Romans 10:13: Now, seeing that there are two paths to salvation, this next verse, the previous context of Romans 5 above makes more sense: Romans 5:9-10

- *We shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him* - the path of the unbeliever must pass through wrath - the great day of judgment.
- *Having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life* - the path of the true Christian must pass through belief, faith and sacrifice.
- Those who follow after Christ are given all of the promises of heaven that we all recognize in scripture. The rest of everybody else is not given those same promises, but they are given a promise to be restored to that, which was lost. A perfect world.
- The paths of salvation are different, because the paths chosen by the individuals are different.

**So, does all of this fit with the message of the Bible as a whole?**

**Here is the message of the Bible:** Acts 3:19-21: When you restore something you bring it back to its original form. The plan of God is still unfolding. Do not judge the artist by His unfinished work, because his work is more magnificent than we can begin to imagine. **Verified in Romans again that those who don't believe have opportunity:** Romans 8:19-22 **Again, there are two paths that Jesus opened:** 2 Peter 2:9: (NASB) *then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment (a time of accountability).* Matthew 10:15: *More tolerable implies a better chance, which in turn implies: hope!* Jesus Christ died as a ransom for ALL to be testified in due time. Jesus as a man had to die as a replacement for the man Adam. It is a corresponding price so that ALL of Adam's posterity who inherited sin and death could have the opportunity for life. God sent His only son to die in the place of Adam to do the human work that could only be done through perfection. **That is a magnificent gift given to all mankind!**

**Finally, just a couple of prophecies:** Micah 4:1-5: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (Where - heaven or earth?)* <sup>2</sup>*Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. (Who seeks God - Christians?)* *For from Zion (represents Jesus and his true followers) will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* <sup>3</sup>*And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. (Who reaps the benefit of righteous judgment?)* *Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.* <sup>4</sup>*Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.* <sup>5</sup>*Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god, as for us, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. (All of this is what Jesus paid for on earth!)* Isaiah 42:1-4

**Jesus died...so, who benefits?**  
**For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...**  
**Think about it...!**