



## THE WAY OF LIFE

### Quest Lesson A-7

The Problem: Ever since the fall of our first parents by disobeying God's will, sin and death have been the universal problem of mankind, At the time of man's first. sin, God mercifully promised the coming of a Savior who would die in

the place of the sinner. The assurance was given that eternal life was still possible because the Savior or Messiah would suffer the eternal penalty for sin. This would make it possible for God to forgive the sins of all those who would accept the death of the Messiah, and would claim Him as Savior and Lord.

The problem is that approximately 4,000 years elapsed from the first promise of a Savior to the time of His actual coming. How could God keep alive in people's minds the faith and hope that the Savior would surely come as promised and die for them?

When the Messiah came, did He, indeed, die for Adam's sin, and the sins of all those who lived during that first 4,000 years of earth's history? How could the Messiah die for the sins of other people? How could He die for sins committed before His coming, as well as sins which had not yet been committed? In other words, how could the Savior die for our sins, as well as those committed by Old Testament man? What were the results for mankind of the Savior's death? What difference did it make for Adam and Eve, for Abraham and other Old Testament people? And what difference does it make for us today?

#### Objectives

First, we will discover how the Lord kept alive the good news of a coming Messiah. from the time of Adam until the time of Moses.

Second, we will see how the Sanctuary and its services were designed of God to point believers to the ministry and death of the Messiah.

Third, we will look at the writings of some Old Testament prophets to discover how they focused people's attention upon the coming Savior.

Fourth, we will consider the question: How could the Savior die for other people's sins, and how could He die for sins not yet committed?

Fifth, what are the results of the death of the Savior for mankind, for those who lived before the Cross, as well as those who have lived since then?

#### I. The Gospel from Adam to Moses

By many promises and signs the Lord taught the earliest inhabitants on this earth that they did not have to die in their sins. A Savior would come and die for them, and thus they could be forgiven and have eternal life.

#### The Word

1. In what words was the first promise of a Savior given to Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:15.
2. How was faith in the promise of the suffering Messiah demonstrated by Abel, Adam and Eve's son? Genesis 4: 3-5; Hebrews 11:4.
3. How did God promise Abraham that a Savior would come? Genesis 12:3; 15:4-6; Galatians 3:8; compare John 8:56.
4. What vision of the work of Christ was given to Jacob? Genesis 28:12; John 1:51.
5. Whose ministry was typified by the work of Moses? Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:20-24; 7:37
6. What was the yearly offering of the Passover Lamb intended to teach Israel? Exodus 12:6-7, 143 1 Corinthians 5:7.
7. What was represented by the manna with which God fed the children of Israel for 40 years? Exodus 16:14-16; John 6:48-51.
8. What was represented by the brass serpent which Moses set up for the people to look upon? Numbers 21:6-95 John 3:14-15.

Explanation: Many of the events recorded in the Old Testament were intended to point forward to the life, death and subsequent ministry of Christ. There are many other examples apart from the ones mentioned. When Noah and his family entered the ark "the Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16). This was a type or example of God's faithful ones, who believe in Jesus, being sheltered during the time of trouble and calamity just before Jesus comes again. (See 2 Peter 3:6-7). Joseph was a type of Christ. As Joseph was sold into slavery for 20 pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28), so Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). As Joseph was used of God to deliver his people from hunger and death (Genesis 45:4-5), so Jesus was used to save the world from eternal death (Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 2:9). Abraham's willingness to offer his son when God commanded (Genesis 22:8-14) demonstrated the good news that God the Father would willingly suffer the agony of giving His only son for the life of the world. (See Hebrews 11:17-19; John 8:56) Old Testament man was given constant reminders that this world of sin will pass away because God's son would come and bear the punishment for all sin.

Relevance: Salvation for Old Testament man was on the same terms as for us. Abraham "believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6). Our faith in the Savior is likewise the condition upon which the Lord can save us from sin (Romans 4:1-5). People before the Cross believed in the Messiah who was coming. Today we believe in the Christ who has come.

#### II. The Sanctuary and Services Pointed to Christ

Much of Exodus and Leviticus provides a description of the tabernacle or sanctuary that God commanded Moses to build in the wilderness. Later this sanctuary was replaced by the magnificent temple built by Solomon. The central purpose of this earthly sanctuary and its services was that the people might have a constant reminder that human sin can only be removed by the sacrifice of the Messiah.

#### The Word

9. What was symbolized by the offering of animal sacrifices in the court of the sanctuary? Leviticus 4:27-32; Hebrews 9:13-14.
10. What was represented by the ministry of the priests in the Holy Place of the sanctuary? Leviticus 4:16; Exodus 30:1, 7; Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:11-12; (compare 1 John 2:13 1 Timothy 2:53; Revelation 8:3-4).
11. What was symbolized by the Day of Atonement service of sprinkling blood upon the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place? Leviticus 16:15, 29-31, 33; Revelation 14: 6-7.

Explanation: There were three parts to the ancient sanctuary: the court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. The court was the place of sacrifice, the Holy Place was the place of priestly mediation (forgiveness), and the Most Holy Place was the apartment of judgment. Sacrifice, mediation, and judgment are the three aspects of the ministry of Jesus Christ. He gave His life on the Cross. Hence, this earth where Jesus died is the antitype of the court. The ministry of priests every day in the Holy Place represented Christ's mediation or intercession for us in the heavenly sanctuary. Because of His death Jesus is now able to forgive our sins. He is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), who presents our case in heaven, and forgives us by virtue of His shed blood. The Day of Atonement (10th day of the 7th month) was a day of judgment. This was the day on which every Israelite was to examine his heart, so that when the cleansing of the sanctuary was complete he could be sure that all sin had been put away from his life. As we shall see in future studies, this Day of Atonement cleansing of the sanctuary and the people represented the heavenly judgment. of God's people a short time before the second coming of Jesus.

Relevance: The sanctuary services taught the children of Israel that the death and ministry of the Messiah would make their salvation possible. As we study those services in the light of the New Testament, our faith in Christ and His salvation is renewed.

### III. Prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament

In addition to the foreshadowing sanctuary services, the Gospel was foreseen by Old Testament prophets who kept alive the promise of a suffering Messiah.

#### The Word

12. What did Isaiah foresee as the work of the Messiah? Isaiah 53.
13. In what terms did the Psalmist foretell the death of Christ? Psalm 22:16-18; compare Matthew 27:35.
14. How was the resurrection of Christ foretold? Psalm 16:10) compare Acts 2:25-27.

Explanation: There was ample evidence in the Old Testament that the Messiah would suffer the penalty for human sin.

The Jews of Jesus' day were looking for a political Messiah who would deliver them from the Romans. Consistently with the Old Testament message, Jesus made it abundantly clear that His kingdom was not to be an earthly one (John 18:36). The suffering and death on the Cross were essential as the payment for our sin. He was made sin for us, in the sense that our guilt was credited to Him, so that His righteousness might be ours (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Throughout history the Gospel message has been presented to mankind. Before Christ's day, it was in the form of typology and prophecy. In our day, it comes in the form of recorded history.

Relevance: Jesus came and died, the penalty is paid, the kingdom of Satan is already defeated (Revelation 12:10). We only await the final consummation when Satan and his cohorts will be forever destroyed.

#### IV. How Could the Innocent Savior Die in Place of Guilt, Mankind?

How could the death of Jesus Christ pay the price for the sin of all human beings? It is not difficult to see how one man could choose to die for another. But in this case, the Bible says that one man chose to suffer the combined penalties of billions of lawbreakers. How could that be possible?

The Word

15. How many God's are there? Deuteronomy 6:4.
16. How many personalities comprise our God? Matthew 28:19; (See Lesson A-3, "What is God Like?").
17. Was there a separation between Christ and the Father because Christ identified with sinners? Matthew 26:37-38; (compare Luke 22:44); Matthew 27:46.

Explanation: When God withdraws His presence from a sinner there is a great sense of guilt, accompanied by mental anguish. In the case of Christ's suffering, eternal God became separated from eternal God. There is only one God, and He became mysteriously divided because of human sin. God the Father chose to separate from God the Son, because the Son had taken the responsibility for all human sin. This separation involved infinite suffering which no human being can ever fully understand. Christ's suffering was not just the mental and physical suffering of a human being. It was the indescribable anguish of God separated from God. Such suffering was adequate to atone for all the sins committed before the Cross, and for all the sins that have been committed since. The sufferings of Christ are sufficient to atone for all mankind, no matter how long human history should continue.

Relevance: God did not compute mathematically the total guilt of sins committed before the Cross, and then add to that the total guilt which He foresaw would result from sins after the Cross. God knew that the suffering of the Cross would exceed the guilt of man, because the suffering of the Cross was infinite! That is the most terrible and yet the most exciting wonder in all of God's revelation to man. Jesus Christ bore "our sins in his own body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24). Our guilt has been atoned for. You and I can be free!

#### V. What Are the Results of Christ's Death?

Christ's suffering and death paid the full penalty for Adam and Eve's fall, and for all the sins that we have committed. Now forgiveness, righteousness and life are available to every human being.

The Word

18. When Christ's death occurred on Calvary, what was made available to all people, those who lived before and those who lived after the Cross? Romans 5:18.
19. Who only will have the gift of eternal life with Christ? Romans 5:17; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23.

Explanation: Forgiveness (justification) and eternal life were earned for all human beings on Calvary's Cross. But abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness: (Romans 5:17). Christ's suffering and death did not automatically free all men from condemnation to eternal death. It provided these blessings for all those who will receive them. Christ must be received if you would have forgiveness and eternal life. Before the Cross, believers in the Messiah to come were counted as saved, but always in view of what the Messiah would suffer for them. It was necessary for them also to receive Him as Savior and Lord. Today we look back and say, "Jesus died for me. I receive His sacrifice as the atonement for my sin. I accept Jesus as my Savior, and praise Him for bearing my guilt."

Relevance: Eternal life is yours if you believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus promised, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Notice the present tenses in that verse! Eternal life with Christ begins when you believe in Jesus and His Father. You are now free from condemnation. (Compare Romans 8:1). This does not mean that you will not die at the end of life, if time lasts. It simply means that, though you are subject to the first death, it will be a temporary sleep, from which you will be awakened at the second coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). -As a believer you have Christ's presence in your heart (Ephesians 3:16-19), and you are reserved for eternal life with your Lord. The final gift of glorification and immortality comes at the second advent of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).

Have you received Jesus as your sin-offering? Have you allowed Him to take possession of your heart and mind, so that His love and power are ruling principles in your life?

#### Review Questions

1. True or False
  - a. Man before the Cross was saved by keeping the law not by faith.
  - b. The ancient Israelite sanctuary illustrated the Gospel.
  - c. Christ's work was not specifically spoken of by the prophets.
  - d. Christ's death was just as much for Abraham as it was for me.

Discuss: What effect would Christ's death have upon the inhabitants of unfallen worlds? Would it influence their future choices?