


You Are Here – Part 5

Signs Pointing to Jesus: *The Animal Sacrifices!*



Third Sunday in Advent – 2012

December 16 → 8:00 & 10:45

Wednesdays (12/5, 12/12, 12/19): Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Sunday, 12/23: BC & SS 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Divine Service 10:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, let's review the BIG PICTURE from creation *toward* Jesus' first coming:

- God made a perfect world, but people sinned – *immediate spiritual and eventual physical death!*
- So God promised to save all people from their sins!
- But people rejected God's salvation; instead, *they went headfirst into sin*, so God sent the worldwide flood; then restarted the world with those on the ark!
- After the flood God promised that the Savior would come *as a Descendant of Abraham through the nation of Israel*; then, *to preserve Israel as a nation*, God kept intervening through the Angel of the Lord!

But the people *thought* → their sins were no big deal AND → their goodness would erase their badness! So God established the offering of animal sacrifices for two reasons:

- To keep reminding people that sin is horrible!
- To keep pointing people to the coming Savior!

1. **The First Drop of Blood – Right after the First Sin:** Earlier *on the day of the first sin*, the world was a sinless place – *no pain, no suffering, no bloodshed, no death*; people and animals lived in perfect harmony! BUT then came

temptation, sin, and the man and the woman realizing they were naked; therefore: **Genesis 3:21 AAT:** “The LORD God made tunics [*long shirt-like garments*] **from skins** for the man and his wife and clothed them.” //

- a. The skins were animal skins; therefore, *right after Adam and Eve fell into sin*, the LORD God took some type of animals, killed them – *thus shed their blood*, and – *from their skins* – made clothes. Imagine what A & E felt: At one moment they were in perfect harmony with all of the animals; then, *in the next moment*, they saw how their sin had brought bloodshed and death! *God wants us to know that sin is horrible!*
- b. Don't miss these connections:
 - i. As the LORD God had promised the Savior whose heel would be bruised, *so that first drop of animal blood pointed ahead to Jesus' holy precious blood!*
 - ii. As Adam and Eve tried unsuccessfully to cover their nakedness with fig leaves, *so we try unsuccessfully to cover our badness with our goodness!*
 - iii. As only the LORD God could properly cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, *so only the precious blood of Jesus can truly cover our sin, thus make us right / righteous in God's sight!*

2. **From the First Sin to Moses – About 2,600 Years:**

- a. **4000 B.C.** – God promised to send the Savior!
- b. **2300 B.C.** – God sent the worldwide flood!
- c. **2100 B.C.** – God specified that the Savior would come as a Descendant of Abraham!

- d. **1800 B.C.** – The descendants of Abraham, *who were living in Egypt*, were forced into slavery!
- e. **1400 B.C.** – The Angel of the Lord called **Moses** to lead Abraham’s descendants—*the people of Israel*, from Egypt to the Promised Land!

3. **The Passover Lambs – At the Time of Moses:**

- a. Why did the Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, release his slaves? You can read the details in Exodus chapters 2-13, which include the ten plagues. We now focus on plague number 10 as recorded in **Exodus 11 AAT**: The LORD said: **5** *“...every firstborn in Egypt will die...”* Then the LORD provided a way for those *who trusted in Him* to escape physical death.
- b. The Passover lambs: **Exodus 12 AAT**: The people of Israel were given specific instructions (B-I-B-L-E); *those who followed those instructions showed their trust in the LORD!* Each item points to JESUS:
 - i. **3** *“...select an animal from the flock...”* **5** *“...a perfect male... a sheep or a goat [lamb or kid, i.e. young of either sheep or goat].”*
 - ii. **6** *“Keep it till the fourteenth of this month [Nisan, which is first Hebrew month], when at twilight the whole assembly of Israel will butcher them.”*
 - iii. **7** *“Take some of the blood, and put it on the doorframes of the houses in which you will eat them.”* **13** *“...When I see the blood, I will pass by you [or Passover], and no disaster will come on you...”*
 - iv. **14** *“Remember that day and keep it as the LORD’s festival. // Passover was supposed to be observed each year; the NT Passover is the Lord’s Supper!”*

4. **The NT Perspective – On the Animal Sacrifices:**

- a. **Galatians 3 NET:** **23** *“Before this faith came, we were kept under guard by the Law [the ceremonial law, which commanded certain blood sacrifices], until this faith...would be revealed.”* **24** *“Thus the Law has been our guardian [keeping us looking ahead for the Promised Savior] until Christ came...”*
- b. **Hebrews 9 NET:** There is a description of the OT Tabernacle, which included the first part—*the Holy Place* and the second part—*the Most Holy Place*; then the Bible records: **6** *“...The priests are always going into the first part...to carry out the worship of God, but only the high priest goes into the second part once a year, but not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins which the people have done in ignorance...”* **9** *“This is a picture which pointed to the time in which we live...”* **11** *“But Christ came as a High Priest...”* **12** *“And He did not use the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered once and for all into the MOST HOLY PLACE and paid a price that frees us forever.”*

Conclusion: Can you see how the animal sacrifices kept pointing to ♦*the horror of sin* and ♦*the coming of the Savior*? **Now**, He has come and, *through faith in Him*, our sins are forgiven! **That is Christmas!** And all God’s people said: **Amen!**