

THE ATONEMENT—GOD’S PROVISION FOR MAN’S SIN

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The Bible makes clear we are God’s prized possession, His highest creation. In Genesis 1:26, the three members of the Trinity proclaimed, “Let Us make man in our image, in Our likeness.” When God made all of creation (except for man), He saw that “it was good.” But after He made man, He saw that it was very good. God’s highest goal for all of our lives is for us to be like Him and to enjoy a relationship of unbroken fellowship with Him. However, when the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, that fellowship was broken. Therefore every person born from that point on was born sinful at the core of their nature and separate from God.

1. On what three things were Adam and Eve’s sins (and all our sins) based? (Genesis 3:3-6, I John 2:16)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

2. How does the bible describe sin? (Isaiah 53:6a)

We see that the root of sin is “turning to our own way.” In other words, each of us has something within us that wants to do things our own way. We want to be in charge of our lives and we do not want to submit to God’s ways. Whether we are amoral, immoral, or actually very moral, this pride, this desire to be our own god and our rejection of God is the first and foremost sin that keeps us from God and must be repented of.

3. What consequences does Adam’s sin hold for all of us today? (Romans 5:12a, 15a, and 18a)

4. Describe the nature of man from a biblical perspective. (Genesis 6:5-6, Romans 3: 9-23)

5. How does our sin affect our connection with God? (Isaiah 59:1-2)

6. What is God’s attitude towards sin? (Habakkuk 1:13a, Hebrews 1: 8-9)

God is holy, pure and good beyond our understanding (see 1 John 1:5), and such radical goodness must always be opposed to that which is bad. Therefore He must and will judge all sin and punish everyone who refuses to turn to Him and repent of their sin (see 2 Timothy 4:1, 8, Hebrews 13:4, and 1 Peter 4:4-5).

7. What did Jesus come into the world to do? (John 1:29, 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 John 3:5)

8. It is of utmost importance that we admit from our hearts that we cannot do this ourselves. Is it possible for us to be saved by doing enough good works to counteract our sin or by doing a better job of keeping the law? (Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5, Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:21)

If we could atone for our sins or be good enough to stand before God by our own efforts, Jesus would not have had to die! If we insist that we're good enough, we're actually telling Christ that His death was meaningless.

9. Under the old covenant, how was a person forgiven of their sin? (Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22)

The blood sacrifice, as the atonement and covering for sin, was instituted by God from the beginning of time. Adam, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and the nation of Israel all offered blood sacrifices for the atonement of sin. God required animal sacrifices, for their blood is pure, innocent and undefiled; it is free from the nature bent toward sin. Under the Old Covenant, the shedding of this blood brought a covering and atonement for man's sin.

The bloodline comes from the father. The Bible tells us the life of the flesh is in the blood. In Jesus there was no sin. We were born of Adam; He was not. The blood of God ran through Jesus, veins, and it was that blood that was shed for the sins of the world.

10. How does Jesus' blood sacrifice compare to that of animals? (Hebrews 9:13-14)

The atonement that Jesus made was greater than the atonement under the Old Covenant. In fact, His atonement was greater than the devastating results of the fall! By His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection, Jesus didn't just cancel out our sins, He also opened the door for us to be restored to a level of fellowship with God and victory in life even beyond what Adam and Eve originally enjoyed in the Garden (see Romans 5:15-17)!

11. What are some of the things that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross? (Isaiah 53:4-6, Romans 6:6-7, II Corinthians. 5:21, Galatians 3:13, Ephesians 2:13, 3:11-12, and 1 Peter 2:24)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____
- i) _____
- j) _____
- k) _____
- l) _____
- m) _____

We see that Christ's atoning death and resurrection provides for us not only forgiveness from sin, but also freedom from slavery to the practice of sin, freedom from the curse, free access to tremendous intimacy with God, and healing and deliverance from sickness and disease of both body and soul!

12. What is the New Covenant that Jesus established and made available through His blood? (Ezekiel 36:26-27, Hebrews 8:8-12)

13. How can we become partakers of this covenant? (Acts 3:19, Romans 10:9-10)

14. Why did God send Jesus? (John 3:16-17)

15. Who is under God's judgment? (John 3:18-19)

If we reject Jesus and His atonement, God the Father's only provision for us under the New Covenant, there is no way we can be saved; for there is no other atonement apart from the cross of Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:11-12, I John 2:22-23, I John 5:10-12)

16. What is the final end of all who refuse to repent and receive the mercy offered through Christ's atoning death? (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:12-15)

17. What is God's desire for all people? (I Timothy 2:4, II Peter 3:9)
