

What Kind of God Would Require Blood Sacrifice

Series: Questions Unbelievers Ask

¹¹For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

Leviticus 17:11

²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:22

1. The first record of animal sacrifice offered in worship in the Bible is in the second generation of man in the example of Abel.
2. As you move into the books of Exodus and Leviticus we see the giving of the law of God to the people of Israel through Moses. The whole tabernacle worship scene is one of blood sprinkling and dipping throughout.
3. At some of Israel's later festive occasions, so many animals were slaughtered that the writer of Scripture says they could not count them.
4. Ironically, after centuries of such practice, Isaiah would record God as saying that he had no delight in the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats. Isaiah 1:11
5. In Jesus' closing days of ministry he instituted the Lord's Supper. He spoke of the fruit of the vine as representing a new covenant in which his blood would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins.
6. The reason stated for all the blood shed in the worship of God presented in the Scriptures has to do with atonement.
7. The word "atonement," is defined as making amends or repairing something bad or unwelcome.
8. The law of God declared, "The soul that sins must die." Ezekiel 18:20
9. In the beginning God chose to make the human race as a species with the power of free moral choice.
10. In order for moral choice to operate it must have a choice between stated good and offered evil.
11. God as the Sovereign ruler requires the death of every treasonous person.

12. One key term in this idea of atonement is satisfaction. This has to do with the just nature of God.

13. Another key term is substitution. This has to do with God's love and mercy and the human dilemma.

14. The pouring out of life by an innocent victim on behalf of the guilty would offer a redeeming solution to both God and man's dilemma.

15. Now through faith in what Christ did on our behalf, God can justly forgive our sins and offer us reconciliation.