

BIBLICAL ATONEMENT AND BIBLICAL PROPITIATION

The word “atonement” in the Old Testament refers to “covering the basics” concerning acknowledgment of personal and corporate sin, faith that God is willing and able with human cooperation to hold back sin so that sin will not bring destruction, and so that God can be recognized as authority concerning truth and redemption. Atonement offerings in the Old Testament never took away sin but rather gave greater opportunity for genuine faith in God among the people. Genuine faith was counted for righteousness.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit never allowed the word atonement to be used concerning Jesus and His sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. The Apostles used the word “reconciliation” to speak of Christ’s sinless death on the Cross. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” The blood of bulls and goats never took away sin. Jesus’ one act of righteousness, sinless death by execution, defeated sin giving Him the right as Second Adam to remove all sin from Creation. The completed work of God in the life of the believer is to ultimately remove all sin. The Cross made this possible. Jesus arose with all power and authority to remove sin and His program for removing sin is published in the New Testament.

“Propitiation” in the Bible simply means “action of mercy.” God presented Jesus as the action of mercy, the one act of righteousness which demonstrates His justice in justifying those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:24-26

Propitiation in the Bible never means to appease the wrath of an angry God. Jesus’ one act of righteousness defeated sin, death, and Satan. Sin was guilty of executing Jesus unjustly thus condemning itself to removal from all creation. Romans 5:12; 8:3 Jesus has the right to make believers a “new creation” whereby they will enter heaven totally sinless and totally righteous in glorification. All that the repentant born again believer takes to heaven are the righteous acts done in this life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 19:8

