

DON'T VIEW JESUS THROUGH A LEGALISTIC LENS

According to Old Testament law, the blood of bulls and goats acted as a temporary covering for the sins of Israel, ritually purifying the people and the Tabernacle.

Hebrews 10:4 states that this blood could not permanently take away sins, but served as a shadow pointing to the final sacrifice of Christ. Yom Kippur is contrast, not a type of Christ's sacrifice. The only Old Testament sacrifice which truly typifies the blood of Christ was the lamb's blood on the doorpost before the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt. Hebrews 9:22 says that almost everything must be cleansed with blood for without the shedding of blood there is no aphesis. Here aphasis means the release of the Old Covenant and the inauguration of the New Covenant in His blood. Becoming an heir to the New Covenant provides release from sin's bondage. Judicial forgiveness (release from bondage to sin) to the believer comes through being an heir of the New Covenant. The resurrected Jesus must be in the heart of the believer before judicial forgiveness of sin is imparted. Saying that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin" is misleading. God doesn't require a payment for His forgiveness, and it is not the death of Christ which brings life. His death brings the possibility of life. It is His resurrected life living in me that brings regeneration, judicial forgiveness of sin, and eternal life.

The Apostle Paul sees the Old Testament wrath of God through the lens of Jesus as He reveals God the Father. The wrath of God means that God turns people over to their evil desires. God does this in love with the aim of bringing people, especially Israel, back to Himself and His purpose. Romans 1: 24,26,28

The final judgment of people who remain in their sins is not the anger of God on display. God finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked. God desires that all come to Him in repentance. Some people choose wickedness instead of choosing God. Their destruction is of their own choosing. The wages of sin is death. God turns people over to their own evil desires and the result is destruction and eternal separation from God.

