

NAME

---

---

## THE THIN RED LINE OF SCRIPTURE



PART 1    THE OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS 22:8



## THE THIN RED LINE OF SCRIPTURE

### THE OLD TESTAMENT PART 1

CONTENTS

PREFACE

INTRODUCTION

KEY WORDS

### CONTENTS – PART 1

The Garden of Eden

Cain and Abel

God's Covenant with Noah

The Call of Abram to the Promised Land of Canaan

Abram becomes Abraham      The Covenant of Circumcision

The Faith of Abraham

Isaac - Jacob and Esau      Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Wrestling at Peniel      Jacob meets Esau

Moses and the Exodus      The Ten Plagues      The Passover

The Ten Commandments      The Tabernacle

The Ark of the Covenant      Tabernacle Furniture

The Sacrifices      Day of Atonement      The Scapegoat

Cities of Refuge      Redemption of the Firstborn      Redemption Money and the First Census

King David's Census      The Jerusalem Temple

The Prophets and the New Covenant

Old Testament Summary

## PREFACE

***The Thin Red Line of Scripture*** Bible Study began as a seed the Lord planted over forty years ago. It is a message about Salvation through Christ, the Messiah, by the shedding of the precious blood of God's only Son. The promised sacrificial offering of the one and only Saviour, *the Holy One of Israel* is revealed like a thin red line or thread as if woven throughout the pages of the Bible. Over the years, this basic study of the Scriptures has been taken with several adult and teen-age groups. The subsequent Bible Study booklet started as hand-outs and later prepared for downloading on the Internet.

***The Thin Red Line of Scripture***, now in its second edition, is a study primarily for adult and teen-age groups, led by a Christian group leader or group leaders taking the sections in turns. There are two versions –

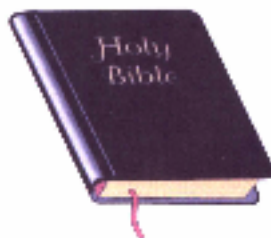
Full Version - Bible verses and background information with spaces left for additional Verses and Notes.

Workbook Version - Back ground information and Bible references only, with spaces for students to write in the verses of the underlined references. It is important for each group member to have a copy of the Workbook in order to write in the Bible verses in the spaces provided.

This will take time and application, but when completed, with prayer for God's guidance, the study booklet will give a good understanding of both the Old and New Testaments. It will be especially helpful for students wanting to study both the Bible and English as a foreign language. ***The Thin Red Line of Scripture*** is also suitable for personal study by Christians or Seekers wanting a deeper knowledge of the Bible and how the two testaments are closely related to form the whole and wonderful counsel of God. May this Study encourage a lifetime of regular Bible reading.

\* In some verses only the first or second part of the verse is quoted.

***The Thin Red Line of Scripture*** texts, implying the shedding of sacrificial blood, are in ***red italics***, other scriptures mainly in ***black italics***.



## THE THIN RED LINE OF SCRIPTURE

### INTRODUCTION

What do you think the title means?

Read Hebrews 9:14

Why is **Blood** so important and sacred in the Bible?

ANSWER: The problem of Man's sin versus God's holiness.

REMEDY: - God sent the Messiah Jesus Christ to die for sin by shedding His Blood on the Cross.

Read Luke 2:1-20

Message of the Angels to the Bethlehem shepherds -

***To you is born this day in the town of David a Saviour,  
Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!***

Luke 2:11

Read Matthew 1:18-25

Message of the Angel of the Lord to Joseph in a dream -

***She (Mary) will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, which means  
Saviour, for He will save His people from their sins.*** Matthew 1:21

God is good. The cry and purpose of God's heart is to dwell with His people.

The Bible promises: - Redemption - Restoration - Blessing.



The root of Man's problem is SIN, originating in the Garden of Eden.

Sin is an archery term meaning falling short, missing the mark - the Bull's Eye. Sinners are unfit to approach God, sin being worse than death to a Holy God, so the sinner must die.

***I am the Lord your God, so be holy, for I am holy.*** Leviticus 11:44

***Behold, all souls are Mine; the souls that sins, it shall die.*** Ezekiel 18:4

***The life is in the blood; it is the blood that makes atonement (for the life).***

Leviticus 17:11

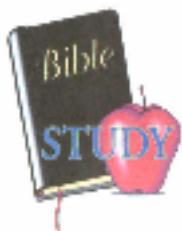
There is a book entitled, 'Christ in all the Scriptures', and it is the same for the word **BLOOD** found throughout the Bible; hence the title - ***The Thin Red Line Scripture.***

Sacrificial blood in the Old Testament is shed in the animal sacrifices.

Believers need an understanding of the ***Power of the Blood of Christ.***

***The Thin Red Line of Scripture*** Bible Study will -

- \* Deepen our knowledge of God - His love, holiness, wisdom, justice and righteousness.
- \* Deepen our understanding of the Old and New Testaments, the whole counsel of God.
- \* Give a deeper gratitude for our Salvation in Christ and for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- \* Deepen our commitment to the Lord and our love for others according to the Royal Law. (Leviticus 19:18 James 2:8)



The ***Blood of Christ*** is a sacred line throughout the Bible and Jesus said:

***Everything which is written concerning Me in the Law of Moses***

***and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*** Luke 24:44

What a claim!



## KEYWORDS

ATONEMENT God's love to make the sinner *at one* with Himself through the shed blood of Christ on the Cross. (*At-one-ment*)

Jesus – ***to make atonement for the people's sins.***

Hebrews 2:17

ADVOCATE One called to stand beside and plead in favour of the accused in a Court of Law.

***If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.***

1 John 2:1 A.V

JUSTIFICATION (*Just as if we have not sinned*) God, our Judge, declares the sinner righteous through faith in Christ by the shedding of His blood on the Cross.

***Since we are now justified by Christ's blood, how much more we shall be saved by Him from the wrath of God.***

Romans 5:9

PROPITIATION God's wrath against all sin appeased or removed by the offering of Christ.

***He (Christ) is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

1 John 2:2 A.V.

REDEMPTION The penalty of sin (death) removed and the sinner redeemed, freed by the payment of a price. Jesus is our Redeemer. Slaves were redeemed in the slave market by the payment of a price.

***We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*** Ephesians 1:7 A.V.

RANSOM The price paid for freedom or deliverance. The price paid by Jesus when He gave His life, shedding His blood on the cross, for our deliverance from sin and death. In the Old Testament the Children of Israel were delivered (redeemed) from slavery in Egypt.

The ransom or price paid for their deliverance was the death of the Passover lambs.

***For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom for all.***

1 Timothy 2:5-6

RECONCILIATION The enmity between God and Man, because of sin, removed.

***And God through Him (the Son) all things should be reconciled back to Himself, as through Him, (the Father) made peace by means of the blood of His cross.***

Colossians 1:20

## THE OLD TESTAMENT OR OLD COVENANT PART 1

### GARDEN OF EDEN

Everything there was very good - but there was one condition!

***The tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,  
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***

Genesis 2:17

***I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring  
and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will bruise  
His heel.***

Genesis 3:15



Christ will crush Satan's head - the Serpent will strike His heel - promise fulfilled in Christ's victory on the Cross.

***The Lamb that was slain (in sacrifice) from the foundation of the world.***

Revelation 13:8

God's *rescue plan* started in the very beginning -

***For Adam and his wife the Lord God made long coats of skins and clothed them.***

Genesis 3:21

Blood was shed to cover their sin. What must Adam and Eve have felt when the animals were sacrificed? Today, likewise, a blood sacrifice is abhorrent and distasteful to some but SIN to a HOLY GOD is *worse*. After the Creation green plants only were eaten with no meat consumed until the time of Noah.

Adam and Eve were rejected from the Garden of Eden.

This was the second rejection because they had rejected God first!

Adam's first sons were CAIN AND ABEL (a tiller and herdsman respectively).

Read Genesis 4:1-16

Cain offered the fruits of the soil but Abel, the firstborn of his flock.  
God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's.

### WHY?

Sin was crouching at Cain's door but Abel was forgiven by offering a life from the flock. These are hard sayings to many people, but God is holy.

***The soul that sins, it shall die.***

Ezekiel 18:4

One of the seven things God hates –

***Hands that shed innocent blood.***

Proverbs 6:17

## CAIN AND ABEL

Cain's anger and jealousy caused the premeditated murder of his innocent brother, an act of violence that totally disregarded conscience. In anger, he did make a blood sacrifice - his brother's! This was a violent shedding of blood, not sacrificial.

***The Lord said to Cain, What have you done?  
The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.***

Genesis 4:10

### WHY DID CAIN MURDER HIS BROTHER?

*For vengeance!*

What does the Bible say?

***Never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for God's wrath;  
for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.***

Romans 12:19 (Deuteronomy 32:35)

***Not be like Cain who slew his brother.***

***And why did he slay him?***

***Because his deeds were wicked and malicious and his brother's were righteous.***

1 John 3:12

Cain's murder of his brother is recorded in the New Testament's great Chapter 11 on Faith, Abel's blood still speaking.

***By faith Abel brought God a better sacrifice than Cain,  
because it was testified of him that he was righteous,  
and God bore witness by accepting his gifts.  
And though he died, yet he is still speaking.***

Hebrews 11:4

Another fact in Scripture - the shedding of blood pollutes the land; for the earth is the Lord's.

***You shall not pollute the land in which you live; for blood pollutes the land,  
and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood shed in it,  
but by the blood of him who shed it.***

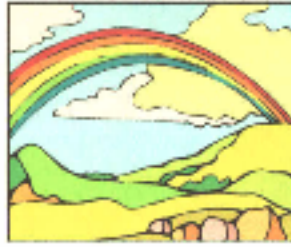
Numbers 35:33 (Psalm 106:38)

In His love and mercy, God stopped any revenge killing of Cain by putting a mark on him. (Genesis 4:15)

Human life is sacred to God, for He created Man in His own image;

so Life should be sacred to us.

## GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH



Read Genesis Chapters 6-9:17

God's Covenant with Noah was made to one Man and the *Rainbow* is the sign of that Covenant.

The Noahic Covenant was a pledge, a solemn agreement,  
not to destroy all life on earth by the waters of a flood ever again.  
(Genesis 8:20-22 9:11-17)

After the Flood, Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered sacrifices to take away sin.

This was an aroma, a pleasing and righteous fragrance to the Lord, when this covenant was made with Noah and all life on earth.

***You shall not eat flesh*** (meat) ***with the life in it, which is its blood.*** Genesis 9:4

***Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed;  
for in the image of God He made man.*** Genesis.9:6

Read Leviticus 17:10-12

This is the Law (Torah) for life is sacred, so the eating of meat with the blood in it was forbidden.  
(Leviticus 3:17 7:26)

***The life (of the animal) is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar  
to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement.***

Leviticus 17:11

Read Deuteronomy 12:23-25

***Be sure you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life,  
and you may not eat the life with the flesh.***

Deuteronomy 12:23

As recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures, the severe wrath of God has fallen  
on the Israelites for disobeying this statute.

(Leviticus 17:10)

The Jews still today never eat meat with the blood in it - (not Kosher).

## CALL OF ABRAM TO THE PROMISED LAND OF CANAAN

Read Genesis 12:1-7 (God's covenant relationship with a family).

Abram was 75 years old. (Genesis 12:4)

***I will make of you into a great nation and I will bless you and make your name famous and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses you; in you will all the families of the earth be blessed by you.***

Genesis 12:2-3

On entry into the land of Canaan, the Lord appeared to Abram and said -

***I will give this land to your posterity.***

Genesis 12:7 13:15-17 17:8

Read Genesis 15:1-21

Abram and Sarai remained childless, the servant Eliezer, being Abram's only heir.



***This man shall not be your heir, but he who shall come from your own body shall be your heir. Look now toward the heavens and count the stars – if you are able to number them.***

***So shall your descendants be.***

Genesis 15:4-5

***Abram believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.***

Genesis 15:6

Abram was therefore justified by faith alone, not works.  
(*just as if* - he had not sinned)

For explanation of the word *Justification* see Keywords)

## ABRAM BECOMES ABRAHAM

Read Genesis 17:1-9

Abraham was again promised the whole land of Canaan and to be the father of many nations in an everlasting covenant. The Covenant with Abram was sealed by blood; and accepted by God when a blazing torch passed between the pieces of the sacrifices.



Abraham was 99 years old when he was given a new name  
(Abraham, meaning *Father of a Multitude*).  
(Genesis 17:5)

The Ultimate seed from Abraham's line is Christ.

Believers in Jesus, in previous generations and today,  
are also the spiritual descendants of Abraham through faith in Christ..

## THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION

Genesis 17:10-27

Just as the rainbow was God's sign or token of the covenant with Noah, the irreversible sign of the covenant with Abraham was *circumcision*. This cut, shedding blood, was the mark of ownership; and is still continued by Jews today.

Circumcision is a sign of total consecration to the Lord  
and again Abraham showed his obedience.

In the bond of marriage the wife and the children were consecrated to God as well, the family unit being basic in the sight of God.

Sarai was also given another name - Sarah (meaning *Mother of Nations and Kings*)  
(Genesis 17:15-16)

More important, than the outward sign of circumcision,  
was the inward obedience of the heart, the spiritual sign of true faith.

***The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your being, that you may live.***  
Deuteronomy 30:6

## New Testament References

***At the end of eight days when (the Baby) was to be circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.***

Luke 2:21

***He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and true circumcision is of the heart, is spiritual and not literal.***  
Romans 2:29

## THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Read Genesis 18:1-15 21:1-8

Abram's faith was indeed tested while he waited many years for God's promise of his son Isaac.

Isaac's name means '*Laughter*', for Sarah had laughed when she heard she was to bear a son in her old age!

It is often not remembered but Abraham also laughed! (Genesis 17:17)

Sarah was 90 years of age when she bore Isaac.

Abraham was 100 years of age when his son Isaac was born.

(Genesis 21:5)

Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day after his birth as God had commanded.

(Genesis 21:4)

Read Genesis. 22:1-18

Later, God further tested Abraham's faith and obedience when God told him to sacrifice Isaac, the promised and beloved son of his old age.

Isaac's question - '*My Father! See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice?*'

Abraham's answer – '*My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.*'

Genesis 22:7-8

Read Hosea 6:6 Psalm 51:16-17

From several Scriptures we know that God does not delight in sacrifices –

***I do not delight in the blood of bulls or lambs or goats (without righteousness.)***

Isaiah 1:11

***To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.***

Proverbs 21:3



The ram caught by its horns was unblemished; a spotless animal for sacrifice instead of Isaac.

Abraham called this place on Mount Moriah - Jehovah Jireh (*the Lord will provide*).

The ram caught in the thicket would otherwise have died a slow and miserable death.

Mount Moriah is the traditional site of the intended sacrifice of Isaac and the place (Jerusalem) where God chose to place His Name and where He gave (provided) His Son as a once for all perfect sacrifice.

## ISAAC - JACOB and ESAU

ISAAC in his life time, following obediently in his father's footsteps, continued as he journeyed to build altars for burnt and thank offerings to the Lord.

As in Isaac's time and the succeeding generations of his family, throughout the Old Testament, ***The Thin Red Line of Scripture*** continued in the building of altars and on them the sacrificial animal offerings.

Isaac married Rebekah of Abraham's family from Aram (Syria).

Like Abraham, Isaac waited some time before Rebekah gave birth - to twins Esau and Jacob.

Esau was the firstborn. The brothers were very different in appearance and character.

### JACOB AND ESAU

Jacob 's name means (*deceiver, supplanter, swindler*; and true to his name, he both gained the Birthright from Esau and deceitfully received the Covenant Blessing from his father, Isaac.

Even so, Esau held his birthright with little thought, displeasing the Lord God, and lost it to Jacob for a meal of lentils! (Genesis 25:29-34)

Unlike his brother, Jacob held the Covenant Blessing in highest regard.

After stealing the Blessing, Jacob fled 400 miles to his mother's family in Aram to be safe from Esau's understandable wrath. (Genesis 27-28:5)

### JACOB'S DREAM AT BETHEL

Read Genesis 28:10-22



On that journey, and alone for the first time Jacob had a heavenly dream at Bethel. As first to Abraham then Isaac, God promised Jacob the land of Canaan, numerous offspring, ever to be with him and the assurance he would return there.

In Aram, Jacob served his mother's brother, Uncle Laban (another trickster) for 20 years. During those years Jacob became the father of twelve sons.

When the time came to return to Canaan, Jacob started out on the journey home with his wives and family - unbeknown to Laban! (Genesis 31:20)

### JACOB'S COVENANT MEAL WITH LABAN

Read Genesis 31:44-55

Before Jacob and Laban parted, Jacob offered a sacrifice and they ate together in a belated farewell meal. In that place a stone monument was built as a covenant of witness

The Lord watching between them not to harm each other.

## WRESTLING AT PENIEL

Read Genesis 32:24-32

Alone with God again, Jacob wrestled all night and as ever prevailed.

Despite his characteristic prevailing struggle, Jacob was permanently disabled by the Lord, for he suffered a torn thigh muscle, the strongest muscle of the human body! Even so, Jacob persisted to gain the blessing and was given the new name of Israel, meaning –

*struggled and prevailed with God.*

His children became known as the Children of Israel.

The meeting at Peniel with the Angel of the Lord (Christ in the Old Testament) completely changed Jacob's character.

Jacob called the place Peniel because he had seen the face of God and still lived. (Genesis 32:30)

## JACOB MEETS ESAU

Read Genesis 33:1-20

On the dreaded meeting with Esau, Jacob -  
***bows before him seven times,***  
calling himself his brother's ***servant,***  
and even addressed Esau as ***my lord.*** (Genesis 33:3, 5, 8)



Now re-named Israel, Jacob, was indeed a changed man!

Jacob on returning to Canaan as God had promised –

***Erected an altar and called it El Elohe-Israel (God, the God of Israel).***

Genesis 33:20

Read Genesis 35:1-15

The *Covenant Blessing* promised to Abraham and Isaac is renewed to *Israel* (Jacob). (Genesis 35:11-12)

Jacob (Israel) builds another stone pillar on his return to Bethel and called the place (El Bethel – house of God).

## MOSES AND THE EXODUS

The Children of Israel, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt, as prophesied to Abraham that his descendants would be slaves for 400 years. (Genesis 15:13)  
Israel's favourite son, Joseph, who had become Prime Minister over all Egypt, was now forgotten.

The *Exodus* from slavery in Egypt was God-planned.

The freedom of the Children of Israel was purchased by the blood of the Passover Lambs.

## THE TEN PLAGUES

Read Exodus 7:17-11:10

An act of divine power, the *Ten Plagues* were God's punishment on the nation of Egypt and its gods.



The first plague, significantly, was the *PLAGUE OF BLOOD* and the tenth, the *DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN*.

***In the sight of Pharaoh; and his servants  
all the waters in the river (Nile) were turned to blood.*** Exodus 7:20

***All the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, even to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the hand mill, and all the firstborn of beasts.*** Exodus 11:5

## THE PASSOVER

Read Exodus 12:1-36

The Israelites were redeemed from slavery by the death of the Passover Lambs, the blood having been marked on the lintel and sides of the doors. Thus the lives of all the firstborn males of the Children of Israel were saved - but not the Egyptians or their firstborn male animals!

***The blood shall be for a sign upon (the doorposts of) the houses where you are, when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall be upon you to destroy when I smite the land of Egypt.*** Exodus 12:13



## THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

A new calendar was instituted, the beginning of months for the Israelites. (Exodus 12:2)  
Each year the Feast of Passover or of Unleavened Bread was to be kept. (Exodus 12:14)  
At the feast the children to ask - Why did God deliver the Children of Israel out of Egypt? (Exodus 12:26-27)

***On that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.*** Exodus 12:51

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



Read Exodus 20:1-17 (Deuteronomy 5:7-21)

The Law of Moses (Sinai Covenant), including the Ten Commandments, was with a nation, the Children of Israel. The sign of the Covenant was the Sabbath (rested). Unlike the signs to Noah and Abraham, the Sabbath (4th Commandment) was to be a pattern of behaviour for all the Israelites.

***Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*** Exodus 20:8

***You shall not commit murder.*** (6th Commandment) Exodus 20:13

Read Exodus 24: 4-8

The blood of the covenant was the seal of the Children of Israel's oath of obedience.

***Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.*** Exodus 24:8

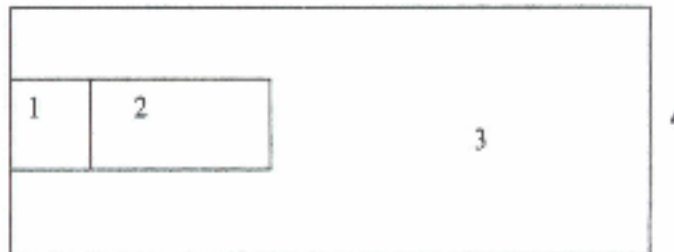
## THE TABERNACLE

Read Exodus 25:1-9

The Tabernacle, God's holy dwelling place or sanctuary, was a rectangular tent (47m. long and 23m. wide or 150 x 75 ft.) containing a *Holy Place* and, behind a shielding curtain called the Veil, *the Most Holy Place*. This portable tent in the wilderness for God's worship was built with gifts of various kinds, a willing and abundant offering of the people.

### THE TABERNACLE

1. Most Holy Place
2. Holy Place
3. Courtyard
4. Entrance



## THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Set in a courtyard, why was the Tabernacle built?

***Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.***

Exodus 25:8

Read Exodus 25:10-22



God's instructions for the design of the Tabernacle started with the most sacred piece of furniture - the *altar*, called the *Ark of the Covenant*. This was a box or chest (115 x 70 x 70 cm) in dimension and made of acacia wood covered with pure gold; very beautiful and the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place. The *Ark of the Covenant* was also called the *Ark of*

*the Testimony* because it contained the Ten Commandments written on two tablets of stone.

Above the Ark, was the *Mercy Seat* or Atonement Cover, a lid of solid gold, made in one piece with the two golden Cherubim. Their outstretched wings shaded the sacred place where the blood of the animal sacrifice was poured out or sprinkled - meaning a life offered to forgive sin.

What did the Cherubim look at? What did God look at?

The blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat.

### TABERNACLE FURNITURE

Exodus 25:23-27:21

29:21, 43-46 30:1-10

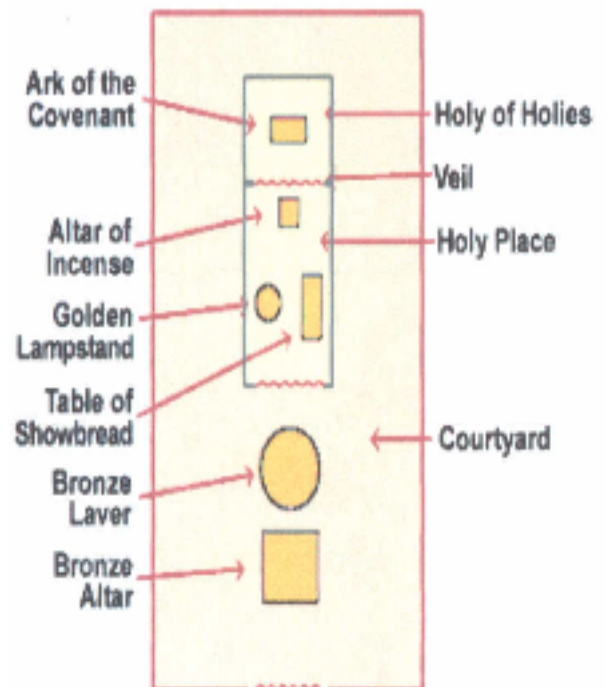
The Tabernacle and its furniture, Aaron (the first High Priest), his sons and the priestly garments were all consecrated by blood.

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE, also called the Golden Altar, was situated in the Holy Place and placed in front of the Veil. Holy incense of sweet spices was burnt on the altar, morning and evening when Aaron trimmed or lit the lamps. The Golden Altar was only for incense and not sacrifices or offerings. No other incense was to be made like it.

The Tabernacle teaches us about our Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, pointing to His sacrificial blood shed on the Cross.

Read Exodus 40:1-38

What happened when Moses finished building the Tabernacle? (Exodus 40:33-35)



**Diagram of the Tabernacle**

Not to scale

## THE SACRIFICES

For a life to be saved, because of sin (bad ways, words and thoughts) before a holy God, a life had to be offered, hence the animal sacrifices.

The sacrificial system of worship given by the Lord Almighty God to Moses in the Sinai wilderness continued throughout the Old Covenant of the Bible.

***The life (of the animal) is in the blood - - -  
it is the blood that makes atonement.***

Leviticus 17:11

For the forgiveness of sins the father, in each household, would lay his hand heavily on the animal to identify with the sacrifice.

Read Leviticus Chapters 1-7 about the various sacrifices and offerings (Burnt, Sin, Guilt, Peace etc.)

## DAY OF ATONEMENT

Read Leviticus 16:1-34

The Day of Atonement, called Yom Kippur, is the most solemn day of fasting in the Jewish year, a lasting ordinance on the 10th day of the 7th month in their calendar.

## THE SCAPEGOAT

On the Day of Atonement, one of two goats was sacrificed. The other live goat (the sin-bearer - the Scapegoat and the origin of the word), was led away by a man into the wilderness to carry away the sins of Israelites.



The Day of Atonement was the only day in the year that the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, and never without **blood**; the smoke of the incense concealing the lid of the Atonement Cover - the Mercy Seat.

Aaron entered through the Veil with extreme reverence, knowing he could die in the awesome place of God's throne and holy presence.

*You are of purer eyes than to behold evil and can not look upon injustice.*

Habakkuk 1:13

Aaron, as High Priest, sprinkled the blood first for His own sin and then for the people, being the mediator between God and man.

***He shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, for the Tent of Meeting and for the altar (of burnt offering) and shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people.***

Leviticus 16:33

In the successive generations countless animals have been offered, both in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple, but not all the hearts of the people were righteous in the sight of God. Since the Exile following the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, not even one generation after the Crucifixion of Jesus, no sacrifices have taken place.

Now back in the Promised Land of Israel, some Orthodox Jews are preparing to build a Third Temple and resume the animal sacrifices.

## CITIES OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 35:9-15, 25-28 Joshua 20:1-9

God provided six Cities of Refuge in the Promised Land to prevent the Israelites killing in revenge (shedding blood) after unintentional killing or by accident. There were 3 in the West and 3 on the East bank of the River Jordan. One of these cities was Golan in the Golan Heights, often in the News today; another was Hebron, likewise well-known. Although a manslayer was safe staying in a city of refuge, it was a definite punishment for freedom was lost until the death of the High Priest. This could be a long time, even longer than the life of the manslayer!

***These six cities shall be a refuge for the Israelites and for the stranger and the temporary resident among them; that anyone who kills any person unintentionally and unawares may flee there.*** Numbers 35:15

## REDEMPTION OF THE FIRSTBORN

Read Exodus 13:11-16

The Redemption of the Firstborn was a reminder, every year at Passover, that the Israelites were redeemed by the shed blood of the Passover lambs. One entering Canaan, a price or ransom had to be paid because their firstborn sons in Egypt had not died in the tenth plague.

The firstborn male animals were also the Lord's but were sacrificed. The firstborn sons were redeemed with a lamb, being consecrated to the Lord by their life, not death; unlike the detestable child sacrifices in neighbouring pagan countries.

***You shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstlings of your livestock that are males shall be the Lord's.***

Exodus 13:12

This was also a sign or reminder every Passover, that the Lord brought the Israelite slaves out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

## REDEMPTION MONEY AND THE FIRST CENSUS

Read Exodus 30:11-16

The payment of *Redemption Money* was a further reminder that the Children of Israel were a redeemed people purchased by the blood of the Passover lambs. Redemption or Atonement Money was the payment by all Israelite men, over 20 years old, of half a silver shekel on being numbered (census) for military service. Each man paid this ransom money to the Lord for his life. The 1/2 shekel was a small amount, but when added up from over 600,000 males (not Levites) would be about £40,000 today.

The Levites were *not* numbered for military service, being in charge of the Tabernacle service of the Lord. The first *Census* or numbering took place in the wilderness near Mt. Sinai in Arabia (Galatians 4:25) between the giving of the Law and the building of the Tabernacle.

***You shall take the atonement money of the Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of Meeting, that it may bring the Israelites to remembrance before the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.*** Exodus 30:16

The silver was used for the 100 silver sockets, set in the sand, for the bases of the pillars of the outer court and the entrances.

The Tabernacle therefore rested on a foundation of redemption.

## KING DAVID'S CENSUS

The First Census or military numbering had been taken in the Sinai wilderness and came with a severe warning -

***When you take the census of the Israelites, every man shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord when you number them, that no plague may fall upon them when you number them.***

Exodus 30:12

Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25

Three hundred years later, King David unwisely (pride and not trusting in the Lord?) ordered a military census. The Redemption Money (ransom) was not collected and the plague fell. It was only stopped when David paid silver and gold to Ornan (Araunah) the Jebusite for his threshing floor on Mt. Moriah and offered sacrifices there; the site where God chose to place His name.

***I have chosen Jerusalem, that My Name (the symbol of My Presence) might be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.*** 2 Chronicles 6:6

## THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE

Read Deuteronomy 12:5-14

***Be watchful not to offer your burnt offerings in every place you see. But in the place which the Lord shall choose.***

Deuteronomy 12:13-14

This is the same site where Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, his promised son. David had already brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, having captured Mount Zion (David's City) just south of Mount Moriah.

And this is the same place where Solomon, King David's son, built the Temple. With the completion of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, the elaborate system of animal sacrifices no longer took place in the portable Tabernacle, the people now settled and living in houses. Again, the most sacred part, was the Most Holy Place containing the Ark of the Covenant. Its last Biblical record was in the reign of good King Josiah, who returned the Ark to the Temple after being removed during the reign of an apostate king - probably Manasseh.

Josiah said to the Levites -

***Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon son of David King of Israel, built.***

2 Chronicles 35:3



Read 2 Chronicles 35:16-19

King Josiah served the Lord with all his heart and repaired the Temple. When the Book of the Law (Torah) was found, the Covenant was renewed in humility and the Passover was truly celebrated.

Josiah's reforms took place about 50 years before the Exile. After Josiah's reign, the kings, priests, false prophets and people sinned exceedingly before the Lord - hence the Exile when Nebuchadnezzar carried Jerusalem's treasures away to Babylon in 586 B.C. (2 Kings 25:13-15 Ezra 1: 7-11)

There is no mention of the Ark in the inventories of Temple articles taken to Babylon and returned to Jerusalem 70 years later. It was outside Jerusalem's walls that God gave His only Son to die for the sins of the world.

## THE PROPHETS AND THE NEW COVENANT

**Hear , O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken.**

**Hear (O Jerusalem) the word of the Lord.** Isaiah 1:2, 10

**To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me (unless an offering of the heart)? I have had enough of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts (without obedience); and I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or lambs or he-goats (without righteousness).** Isaiah 1:11

Isaiah prophesied in Jerusalem during the reigns of five kings of the house of Judah.

The prophets conveyed the Word of the Lord often to a rebellious people. Many of the prophets suffered for their proclamation of God's messages.

At the end of his long life, Isaiah was even sawn in two (probably in King Manasseh's reign) - the punishment recorded in Hebrews 11, that great Faith chapter.

The Lord said -

**I, even I, am He Who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.** Isaiah 43:25

Read Isaiah 53:1-12

There are more verses in Isaiah 53 than any other prophetic book about the punishment inflicted on the Suffering Servant of the Lord, the despised and rejected Messiah –

**A Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.**

Isaiah 53:3

**He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with the stripes (that wounded Him) we are healed.**

Isaiah 53:5

**He poured out His life unto death, was numbered with the transgressors; yet-He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.**

Isaiah 53:12

**I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercy and compassion promised to David.**

Isaiah 55:3

THE PROPHETS AND THE NEW COVENANT continued

The prophet Jeremiah also gave a covenant promise, God's promise of a NEW COVENANT or Testament (Latin) to His rebellious people, soon to go into exile.

***Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.***

Jeremiah 31:31

(*New Covenant* - is only used this once in the Old Testament).

***I will put My law within them, and on their hearts will I write it; and I will be their God and they will be My people.***

Jeremiah 31:33

***I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.***

Jeremiah 31:34

***I will make an everlasting covenant with them:  
I will not turn away from following them to do them good,  
and I will put My fear in their hearts, so that they will not depart from Me.***

Jeremiah 32:40

Read Ezekiel 36:24-27

***A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.***

Ezekiel 36:26

***I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them,.***

Ezekiel 37:26



## OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY

### THE PROBLEM

God's holiness versus Man's sin.

### GOD'S PLAN

Forgiveness of Sin through the shed blood of countless animals preceding the once for all perfect sacrifice of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

### GOD'S PURPOSE

To dwell with His redeemed people.

### THE GREAT THEME OF THE BIBLE

Redemption   Restoration   Blessing.



### NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT

'Scriptures taken, unless otherwise stated, from THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE, Old Testament copyright, © 1965, 1987 by The Zondervan Corporation. The Amplified New Testament copyright © 1958, 1987 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.'