

THAT ONE PERFECT SACRIFICE

It will always be unbelievable that anyone, living in a perfect environment, would want it any other way. But this world was once perfect, and perfectly beautiful, and God and man actually talked together face to face – yet man chose "sin," and a terrible deterioration took place as the result. What we see today, in nature and among the human race, is not a very good sample of what originally was.

The greatest proof of the wonderful love of God is found in the fact that, after mankind sinned, God set out to rescue him from his sin, and to restore in him a real likeness to his Creator. Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

1. Where, when, how did this seeking and saving actually begin? First, reread Genesis 3:1-14, part of which we studied last time. Next, let us focus our attention on verse 15. Then answer these important questions:

(a) Who was speaking to whom? _____

(b) Who was listening? _____

(c) What was the "enmity" promised? See Psalm 97:10; Romans 1:16.

(d) Why did Adam and Eve need the promised enmity? See John 3:19,20.

2. Immediately, God gave the human race a terrible, yet wonderful, illustration of what sin cost heaven, but provided for the now separated sinner. Read Genesis 4:1-4, then 3:21. These texts suggest what is called the sacrificial system, sinners offering sacrifices, killing animals as the result of their sinning. This practice continued by God's ordering, until the day Christ died at Calvary. (See Genesis 8:20; 12:5-7; Matthew 27:50,51.) What was God attempting to teach the sinner in instructing him to offer sacrifices?

(a) Tie together Genesis 2:15-17 and Romans 6:23, first part. What is the simple point?

(b) Read Isaiah 53:4-7. Who deserves to die? What does Isaiah teach the sinner?

(c) What did our Lord actually become for us? 2 Corinthians 5:21, first part.

Summary point: The animal sacrifice, like Christ, was an "innocent victim," dying for the guilty sinner. As Adam and Eve, and every sinner before Calvary, offered sacrifice, and expressed faith in what it represented, they experienced forgiveness. Truly, this was the Old Testament "gospel," their good news of salvation. This was central in the services of the sanctuary, which we will study later in the series.

3. The offering of sacrifices, as a type of Christ's future coming to earth and dying for mankind, also meant that those Old Testament people had to have faith that He would actually come. To encourage their faith God revealed many "Messianic prophecies"

through His Old Testament writers,--actual predictions of a coming Messiah, or Anointed One, Whom we know to be the Lord Jesus Christ. We just read one of these in Isaiah 53.

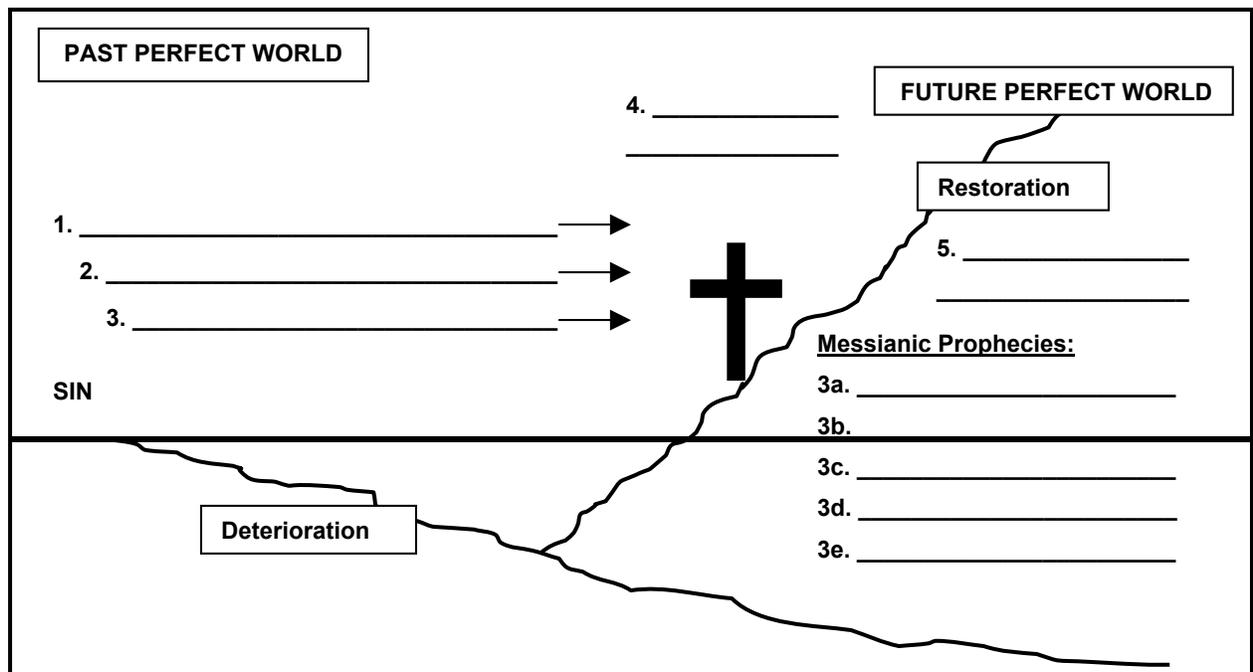
Some authorities tell us that there are over three hundred of them. Let us identify several more. What are the details of the following?

- (a) Micah 5:2--Matthew 2:1-6 _____
- (b) Hosea 11:1--Matthew 2:11-15 (19-21) _____
- (c) Psalm 22:18--Matthew 27:34,35 _____
- (d) Psalm 22:1--Matthew 27:45,46 _____
- (e) Isaiah 53:9--Matthew 27:57-60 _____

Summary point: Peter (in 1 Peter 1:11) tells us that it was the "Spirit of Christ" that spoke through the Old Testament prophets. We could then correctly say that our Lord instituted the sacrifices to point to His own sacrifice. He also revealed His coming to earth as Messiah and Savior, pointing out many details of His future earthly life, so that when He did come, there would be no question as to who He really was. Thus, today we can look back and be sure that we, too, have a wonderful Savior from sin. (See also Luke 24:44.)

4. He DID come! What does John 5:39,40 tell us about the great tragedy of His days on earth? (See also John 1:10,11.)

5. In Christ's story of the shepherd and the sheep, He tells us that He is the door to the sheepfold. Read and memorize if possible John 10:9, 10. What is His offer to you in these verses?



COMMENTS ON THE "ENMITY" OF GEN. 3:15

God's First Promise of a Saviour: And I [God] will put enmity between thee [Satan] and the woman, and between thy seed [many] and her seed [singular, first meaning Christ, then His followers]; it [Christ] shall bruise thy head, and thou [Satan] shalt bruise his heel."

Commentary: Satan bruised Christ's heel in that he led people to kill Him, but he could not be kept in the grave. Christ bruised Satan's head in that His death guaranteed the final, eternal destruction of Satan. (See Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:10.)

What Did God Mean by the "Enmity" that He Would Put in the hearts of Christ's Followers, for Satan?

- (1) Following the disobedience of Adam and Eve, they found forgiveness through faith in a sacrifice, and a Redeemer to come and die for their sins. But they then possessed a fallen nature; thus it would be natural for them to sin again, and again. Selfishness was then central, and their original ability to love as God wanted them to love became an impossibility, except for supernatural help from God.
- (2) Sadly, this "fallen" nature became the lot of all mankind following the time Adam and Eve sinned, thus it is also natural for all of us to sin. Selfishness is central within all of our lives as well, and the ability to love in a way pleasing to God is an impossibility, except for supernatural help from God.
- (3) Our fallen human race is helpless to resist selfishness, temptation, and sinning without divine help. (See John 15:5.)
- (4) God has revealed His love in the giving of Christ, His Son, to die for mankind at Calvary. The redemption of the human race is His one purpose. (See John 3:16.)
- (5) To study about, and accept, Christ--opens the way for God to implant His love and then a supernatural enmity or hatred for sin in human beings--thus enabling them to love what they once hated, and hate that which they once loved.
- (6) The Christian comes then to place God first in his or her life, selflessness replaces selfishness, and he or she is able, with God's implanted grace, to demonstrate enmity against Satan and sin, in fulfillment of the Gen. 3:15 promise.
- (7) Thus a believing sinner can be saved from his or her sins, and be restored to the image of God, achieving a selflessness and love as was exemplified for them by Christ in His earthly life. They will come to hate sin as Christ hated it, thus possessing the enmity that Christ had for sin.

Introduction: Luke 19:10

¹⁰for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

1a & b. Genesis 3:1-15

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

¹⁰So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹²Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³And the Lord God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”

Answer: a. God was speaking to the serpent (Satan, the Devil).

b. Adam and Eve were listening.

1(c) Psalm 97:10

¹⁰You who love the Lord, hate evil!
He preserves the souls of His saints;
He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Additional text) **Romans 1:16**

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Answer: Enmity = hatred for sin (evil).

1(d) John 3:19, 20

¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Answer: Because selfishness had replaced love for God.

2. Genesis 4:1-4

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." ²Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, . . .

(Additional text) **Genesis 3:21**

²¹Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

(Additional text) **Genesis 8:20**

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

(Additional text) **Genesis 12:5-7**

⁵Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

(Additional text) **Matthew 27:50, 51**

⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

⁵¹Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, . . .

2a. Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of 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."

(Additional text) **Romans 6:23**

²³For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Answer: Death is the consequence of sin (disconnecting ourselves from God by rebelling against God.

Life is possible only as a gift of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

2b. Isaiah 53:4-7

⁴Surely He has borne our griefs

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted,

Yet He opened not His mouth;

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,

And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

So He opened not His mouth.

Answer: "All wee", "every one", "the iniquity of us all"

2c. 2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Answer: He died in our place the death we should have died so that we might live.

3a. Micah 5:2

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
 Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
 The One to be Ruler in Israel,
 Whose goings forth *are* from of old,
 From everlasting.”

3a. Matthew 2:1-6

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”
³When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
⁵So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
⁶*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”*”

Answer: The Messiah would be and was born in Bethlehem.

3b. Hosea 11:1

¹“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
 And out of Egypt I called My son.

3b. Matthew 2:11-15

¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
¹²Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.
¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young

3b. Matthew 2:11-15 continued

Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and

	His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, <i>“Out of Egypt I called My Son.”</i>
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Answer: Egypt would provide a safe haven in a time of danger for the Messiah.

<p>3c. Psalm 22:18</p> <p>¹⁸They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.</p>	<p>3c. Matthew 27:34, 35</p> <p>³⁴they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted <i>it</i>, He would not drink. ³⁵Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: <i>“They divided My garments among them, . . .</i></p>
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Answer: The Messiah’s garments would be divided by the casting of lots (gambling).

<p>3d. Psalm 22:1</p> <p>¹My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? <i>Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?</i></p>	<p>3d. Matthew 27:45, 46</p> <p>⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, <i>“Eli , Eli , lama sabachthani ?”</i> that is, <i>“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”</i></p>
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Answer: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me”.

<p>3e. Isaiah 53:9</p> <p>⁹And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor <i>was any</i> deceit in His mouth.</p>	<p>3e. Matthew 27:57-60</p> <p>⁵⁷Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. ⁵⁹When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.</p>
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Answer: The Messiah was buried in a rich man’s tomb.

3. (Summary Point) 1 Peter 1:10, 11

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, ^vthe Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

4. John 5:39, 40

³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

4 (Additional Text). John 1:10, 11

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Answer: The Jews didn't recognize Jesus in the Scriptures they studied, even though the whole purpose of the Scriptures was to help them recognize the Messiah when He came.

5. John 10:9, 10

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Answer: Jesus came to give us life so we don't have to suffer the consequences of sin, which is death.

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Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of Lesson 4: In lesson 2, we studied briefly about the Bible, its inspiration, its authority. In lesson 3, we focused on the Bible's central figure--Jesus Christ. One of the great proofs of the inspiration of Scripture is found in the exact fulfillment of its prophetic content. You may have included this as one of your external evidences in lesson 2. The purpose of lesson 4 is to utilize Old Testament illustrations of the sacrificial system and several Messianic prophecies to show fulfillment in the life of Christ. Thus, we add to conviction about the accuracy of Scripture, and focus the lesson on the Bible's central figure--Christ Himself. The need for relationship with Christ is further emphasized as well as the need for a Physician in order to be restored. (Daniel 2 will be used in a later lesson. It focuses more on Christ's second coming which does not come until lesson 10.) The point of focus in lesson 4 is His first coming.

During the study itself: You will notice in question 1 that the simple analysis of a text takes place. Let the student assist you in doing this, so that he is quietly introduced to "exposition" of Scripture. This will occur in future lessons more and more as the student becomes more acquainted with his Bible and your teaching. We want not only to teach truth, but mature people in their study habits. Keep the two points of the lesson simple--shed blood, and Messianic prophecy.

Appeal: The point of question 5 is that we enter into salvation by one Door, by faith in and acceptance of Jesus Christ, Who shed His own innocent blood, Who was predicted for centuries by the prophets and writers of the Old Testament.

Additional material: You might reproduce the additional page of Old Testament predictions and New Testament fulfillments of the Messiah for the added study of the student at home. Give it to them for their notebook at the close.

Illustration: Let the student see, by the use of the arrows, the centrality of Christ. If using an overhead transparency, use your colored pen and color the lines with the arrows. Also color in the cross.

