

The Sacrificial Death of Jesus

I. Sacrifices in the Old Testament

A. Sacrifices were symbolic

1. They were an outward sign of an inner disposition but did nothing in reality
2. Sacrifices were offered for a number of things:
 - a. Sin offering
 - b. Cleansing
 - c. Thanksgiving
 - d. Etc.
3. These sacrifices pointed toward a sacrifice that would actually do something

B. Hints at the coming sacrifice

1. "God will provide the lamb for the sacrifice"
 - a. Abraham's words to Isaac
 - b. Isaac as a symbol of Jesus
 - i. Both are the only son of the father
 - ii. Both carry their own wood up a mountain to the place of the sacrifice
 - iii. Both allow themselves to be bound and sacrificed (trust God and their fathers)
 - iv. Both escape death
2. Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 - a. The Suffering Servant
 - b. Also see Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-7
3. Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - a. God will establish a New Covenant that will free them from sin
 - b. An unbreakable covenant
 - c. There will be no human mediators of this covenant
4. The Passover
 - a. Bread and wine
 - b. Blood of the lamb frees from sin

II. The Sacrifice of Jesus

A. Jesus is God

1. The eternal sacrifice that solves the eternal problem of sin
 - a. Sin violates God's eternal law
 - b. Only an eternal sacrifice can remove sin
2. His sacrifice is applicable to all times and places
 - a. Jesus exists in all of time
 - b. Jesus exists in all places
 - c. Jesus' sacrifice is made present throughout all time and in every place
3. He has power over death
 - a. The resurrection proves Jesus' claim to be God
 - b. It also then proves his salvific death to be accepted by the Father
4. Foreshadowing
 - a. The bread and wine of the Passover
 - b. The Passover Lamb
 - c. The bread and wine offered by Melchizedek

B. Jesus is man

1. A man suffers for the sins of men
 - a. Animal sacrifice passes the burden of sin onto one incapable of sin
 - b. Only a man free from sin can offer a true sacrifice for sin
 - c. Jesus does not sin but takes the punishment we deserve through sin
2. As fully man, Jesus fully redeems us
 - a. His human soul redeems our soul
 - b. His human body redeems our flesh
 - c. His human nature redeems our nature
3. Jesus brings our humanity into the life of the Trinity

- a. Old Testament imagery of God desiring to “marry” mankind (bring us into one with him)
- b. In marriage, two become one through the uniting of flesh
- c. Jesus takes our humanity (our flesh) into the very essence of the Trinity thus binding God to man for eternity

The Problem of Sin

