



Earlier in our series, we addressed the seriousness of sin. Sin is a serious issue and needs to be dealt with. In the Old Testament, the sin of the Israelites was atoned for under the law with animal sacrifices, once a year, by one man, the high priest. This day of atonement was needed repeatedly, every single year, to keep the Israelites in good standing with God. In the New Testament, Jesus came to be our new high priest, our atoning sacrifice, to form a new covenant, for all people, for all time. Let's explore how this all fits together.

Read: Leviticus 16; Leviticus 17:11; Romans 6:23

What is the significance of blood in the process of atonement?

Why is blood the specific requirement, instead of something else?

What is the relationship between the high priest and the sacrifice?

What did the high priest do after the sacrifice was completed?

How does reading the verse in Romans in context of the Old Testament sacrificial system change how you might have read it previously?

Read: Hebrews 9:25-28; Hebrews 10:11-18

What similarities do you notice between the other priests, and Jesus as our high priest?

What is the relationship between Jesus as high priest and the sacrifice?

What did Jesus as high priest do after the sacrifice was completed?

How does Jesus differ from other priests and why?

What does Jesus' sacrifice offer that animal sacrifices never could?

Take it deeper:

In what ways have you tried to be your own high priest, or perhaps even your own sacrifice? How have you tried to avoid or atone for your own sin?

How is the blood of Jesus superior to your own efforts?

As we continue on in our Lenten journey, what do you need to empty yourself of and lay at Jesus' feet for His blood to cover on your behalf?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Thank you for making a way for me to be in relationship with you through the sacrifice of your own son. Thank you that His blood has atoned for my sin in its entirety, once, and for all time. Fill me with gratitude and help me to live out of what you have done, both in me and in the world.

Amen.