

## The Association of the New Covenant to the Mosaic Covenant

To understand the significance of the New Covenant, one must know about the Old Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant is often understood in the context of sacrifices - specific animals were prepared and sacrificed for certain sins by certain people to meet God's prescribed judicial process of atonement. However, the Law is much more than just sacrifices, and without understanding the Mosaic Covenant, one would not understand Jesus Christ's death and the New Covenant.

1. The Mosaic Covenant details the Day of Atonement. Occurring only once a year, this solemn day required the sacrifice of a 1) bull (its lifeblood) to atone for the sins of the high priest and his household, and 2) male goat (its lifeblood) to atone for the sins of the nation (Lev 16:2-19). On this one day of the year, only the high priest can enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for himself and the nation of Israel for all their sins (Lev 16:34).

What does the prophet Isaiah of the Old Testament say about the Messiah (Isa 53:1-12)?

What do the New Testament authors say about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22-24; 3:18; Heb 9:24-26)?

2. Located within the Holy of Holies is the Ark of the Covenant, which has a lid called the Mercy Seat and where God comes once a year. The high priest applies the blood of the sacrifice on the Mercy Seat to expiate (cover) the sins of himself and the nation to propitiate (appease) God.

What do New Testament authors say about Jesus Christ in relation to the Mercy Seat (Rom 3:25; Heb 9:12-14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)?

3. The Mosaic Covenant included laws on religious festivals such as Passover (Lev 23:5-8; Ex 12:1-13, 42-51). This event, the last plague that struck the first born of Egypt but spared those Israelites who smeared the blood of a sacrificed unblemished lamb on their doorposts, would represent the Exodus.

What do New Testament authors say about Jesus Christ in relation to Passover (1 Cor 5:7; 1 Pet 1:19; Rev 5:6; John 1:29; Mark 14:12)?

4. The Mosaic Law established the Tabernacle as the house of God and, patterned after the heavenly model, provided precise instructions on how to construct it (Ex 25:8-9; Heb 8:1-5). Known as the "tent of meeting," the tabernacle was recognized as the meeting place between God and His people (Ex 40:34-35); however, in practice, God met with only the High Priest in the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement (Heb 9:7). When Solomon's Temple was built, the Holy of Holies had the dimensions of a cube: 30 feet x 30 feet x 30 feet (1 Kings 6:20).

What is the geometry of New Jerusalem in Revelation (Rev 21:15-16)? Describe the Temple in New Jerusalem (Rev 21:22-25).

## The Association of the New Covenant to the Mosaic Covenant Teacher Notes

To understand the significance of the New Covenant, one must know about the Old Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant is often understood in the context of sacrifices - specific animals were prepared and sacrificed for certain sins by certain people to meet God's prescribed judicial process of atonement. However, the Law is much more than just sacrifices, and without understanding the Mosaic Covenant, one would not understand Jesus Christ's death and the New Covenant.

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What does the prophet Isaiah of the Old Testament say about the Messiah (Isa 53:1-12)?

What do the New Testament authors say about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22-24; 3:18; Heb 9:24-26)?

In exploring the answers to the questions, help the student focus on observing the biblical text.

Help the student understand that without understanding the Mosaic Covenant, there would be little understanding of the holy character of God and what it means to be holy (i.e. be holy for I am holy). All the New Testament references to Jesus being the unblemished lamb or paying the price for the atonement of sin would not make sense.

The prophet Isaiah portrays the Messiah's sacrifice within the context of Levitical sacrificial laws (Isa 53:1-12). The Suffering Servant died for iniquity, transgression and sin (Isa 53:5-12). He was a guilt offering and in substitute for human beings (Isa 53:5-12).

The apostles Paul and Peter understood the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus was unblemished and sinless and took the place of the sinner to make atonement for sin (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22-24; 3:18).

Jesus was the only High Priest, who was Himself the supreme once and for all sacrifice (Heb 9:24-26) that accomplished complete atonement for sin and appeased God's wrath towards human beings; Jesus became the mediator of the New Covenant.

2. Located within the Holy of Holies is the Ark of the Covenant, which has a lid called the Mercy Seat and where God comes once a year. The high priest applies the blood of the sacrifice on the Mercy Seat to expiate (cover) the sins of himself and the nation to propitiate (appease) God.

What do New Testament authors say about Jesus Christ in relation to the Mercy Seat (Rom 3:25; Heb 9:12-14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)?

It might be necessary to define some theological terms, and it might be worthwhile to have a Bible dictionary at hand in case you are unprepared to field a student's question.

By understanding the details of the Mosaic Covenant, it is hoped that the student will gain a greater appreciation of what Jesus Christ did for us.

Jesus provided the blood at the place of propitiation (Rom 3:25; Heb 9:12-14) and was Himself the place of propitiation (1 John 2:2; 4:10).

3. The Mosaic Covenant included laws on religious festivals such as Passover (Lev 23:5-8; Ex 12:1-13, 42-51). This event, the last plague that struck the first born of Egypt but spared those Israelites who smeared the blood of a sacrificed unblemished lamb on their doorposts, would represent the Exodus.

What do New Testament authors say about Jesus Christ in relation to Passover (1 Cor 5:7; 1 Pet 1:19; Rev 5:6; John 1:29; Mark 14:12)?

Teacher tip: as you see the groups of verses associated with each answer, it would be helpful if the student looked at these groups in the process of discovering the answer.

Jesus was the Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7; 1 Pet 1:19; Rev 5:6).

John the Baptist prophetically sees Jesus as the link between Passover and the Day of Atonement, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29), and by divine appointment (Acts 2:23), Jesus' crucifixion takes place during the Passover celebration (Mark 14:12).

Because Jesus Christ fulfills the atonement aspect of the Mosaic Covenant, God's Son re-establishes the means of becoming "God's own possession" and "His kingdom of priests and holy nation," and enabling one to enter into the Promised Land.

4. The Mosaic Law established the Tabernacle as the house of God and, patterned after the heavenly model, provided precise instructions on how to construct it (Ex 25:8-9; Heb 8:1-5). Known as the "tent of meeting," the tabernacle was recognized as the meeting place between God and His people (Ex 40:34-35); however, in practice, God met with only the High Priest in the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement (Heb 9:7). When Solomon's Temple was built, the Holy of Holies had the dimensions of a cube: 30 feet x 30 feet x 30 feet (1 Kings 6:20).

What is the geometry of New Jerusalem in Revelation (Rev 21:15-16)? Describe the Temple in New Jerusalem (Rev 21:22-25).

New Jerusalem is a square cube; its width, length, and height measures about 1400 - 1500 miles (Rev 21:15-16).

There is no temple in the new Jerusalem!

God and His Son are effectively the temple (Rev 21:22).

The glory of God powers the lamp of His Son and illuminates the city (Rev 21:23; 22:5).

## Verse References to Each Question

Teacher tip: because many biblical passages are being presented, it may be necessary to help the student discover the answer within the biblical text by providing the context of the passage. Highlighting the text may be helpful.

### Question 1

Isaiah 53:1-12, ESV

- 1) Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- 2) For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3) He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
- 6) All 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.
- 7) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
- 8) By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?
- 9) And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- 10) Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
- 11) Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12) Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV

- 21) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Peter 2:22-24, ESV

- 22) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 3:18, ESV

- 18) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Hebrews 9:24-26, ESV

- 24) For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25) Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26) for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

## Question 2

Romans 3:25, ESV

25) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Hebrews 9:12-14, ESV

12) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13) For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 John 2:2, ESV

2) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 4:10, ESV

10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

## Question 3

1 Corinthians 5:7, ESV

7) Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Peter 1:19, ESV

19) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Revelation 5:6, ESV

6) And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

John 1:29, ESV

29) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Mark 14:12, ESV

12) And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

## Question 4

Revelation 21:15-16, ESV

15) And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16) The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

Revelation 21:22-25, ESV

22) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24) By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,