

Jesus' blood sacrifice of Himself on the cross is a death He did not deserve since He did not commit any sin in His entire life. Like Adam and Eve, we too deserve death for our sins; but this punishment of death was carried by Jesus.

Incidentally, the place of Jesus Christ's crucifixion was identified by the all-knowing God approximately 1800 years earlier when He told Abraham to go to Mount Moriah. You see, the city of Jerusalem was built on Mount Moriah, and Jesus was crucified on that same mountain where God provided the substitute momentous sacrifice for Abraham's son. God provided the most momentous sacrifice of all time in the exact same place.

You may ask, "How can a person die to save others?"

The answer is that the sinless Jesus Christ, who was killed on the cross, intercedes for those who believe in Him and put their trust in Him as their Redeemer (the one who paid their ransom).

"He (Jesus) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."
(Hebrews 7:25)

God's ultimate plan was to require only one final perfect sinless sacrifice. This is the new covenant. Jesus said that His blood represents the new covenant and is poured out for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 22:20; Mark 14:24).

God gave us a glimpse into this plan long ago in Abel's sacrifice, in Abraham's sacrifice, and in all the Jewish sacrifices from Moses onward. But many of us have not recognized its purpose, true meaning and fulfillment.

Abraham's momentous sacrifice was actually a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God's (Jesus Christ's) most momentous sacrificial death for all men.

Christ's sacrifice was God revealing His love, justice and mercy for all mankind. Jesus' last words on the cross were, "It is finished!" In Hebrew, this means that "the debt is paid in full!" Our sin debt was PAID IN FULL by Jesus' most momentous sacrifice.

The Messiah's death and resurrection perfectly fulfilled God's plan for our redemption and salvation. This is exactly what the prophets wrote about.

Jesus' death eliminated, once and for all, the need for continued animal sacrifices. God tells us in Hebrews 9:12, *"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His (Messiah Jesus Christ's) own blood He entered the Most Holy Place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption."*

Through Adam's sin, death came to all men. But through Jesus' death, eternal life will be given to all men who put their faith and trust in Him. God says in Romans 5:18-19, *"Therefore, as through one man's (Adam's) offense, judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's (Jesus') righteous act, the free gift (of eternal life) came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's (Adam's) disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's (Jesus') obedience many will be made righteous."*

Just as the blood of unblemished lambs protected Moses and the Jews from the Angel of Death in Egypt, so too can the shed blood of the sinless Messiah Jesus protect you from eternal death in hell.

What will you do right now?

Will you accept Jesus today as your Savior? Will you believe that He died on the cross for your sins? Will you believe that He rose from the dead to show that He has the power to overcome death and provide eternal life to those who believe in Him?

Right now, say to Jesus: "Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I do not deserve eternal life. I believe that You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Lord Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I repent of my sins and now place my trust in You for my eternal salvation. I accept Your free gift of eternal life."

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To see the Gospel verses mentioned in this document, go to the following websites:

[www.biblegateway.org](http://www.biblegateway.org)

[www.bibleleague.org](http://www.bibleleague.org)

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The Most Momentous Sacrifice of All Time

Surah 37:104-107

"We called to him, 'O Abraham, You have fulfilled the vision.' Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice."

Eid al-Adha

Muslims around the world celebrate the **Feast of the Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha)** to honor the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his son as an act of submission to God's command. As Abraham was about to perform this sacrifice, God intervened. The Qur'an says in Surah 37:104-107:

"We called to him, 'O Abraham, You have fulfilled the vision.' Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice."

As we contemplate this event known as the great or **Momentous Sacrifice**, we need to search out the deeper significance of sacrifices and start by asking ourselves some important questions.

- Why did the almighty, all-knowing, creator God of the universe command Abraham to sacrifice his son?
- Why did God specifically tell Abraham to perform this sacrifice on Mount Moriah as was recorded by Moses? (Genesis 22:2) What was so special in God's eyes about this particular mountain?
- Why did God provide a substitute sacrifice in place of Abraham's son? (Exodus 22:13-14)
- Why did God tell Moses and God's people in Egypt to kill unblemished lambs and put their blood on the door posts and lintels of their homes? (Exodus 12)
- Why did God tell Moses to sacrifice animals as "sin offerings?" (Exodus 29:14; 29:36; 30:10)
- Why did God cover Adam and Eve with tunics made from skins of animals after they sinned? (Genesis 3:21) Why weren't their coverings of fig leaves good enough? (Genesis 3:7)
- Why was God pleased with Abel's sacrifice of the firstborn animal of his flock, but not with Cain's sacrifice of the fruit of the ground? (Genesis 4)

Sacrifices did not just begin with Abraham. They began with Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover themselves with fig leaves to hide their shame and sin-guilt. But God made them coverings of animal skins. Adam and Eve's own efforts to hide their guilt were insufficient. Their works were not accepted by God. God had to intervene. And where did the skins come from? They came from an innocent animal that had to be sacrificed. God showed the way that would have to be followed to remove the stain of sin.

This God-directed requirement of performing sacrifices to cover sin was passed on from Adam to his son Abel.

Abel sacrificed an animal to God. When an animal is sacrificed, the animal is slain and its blood is shed. And we learned that God accepted Abel's sacrifice!

But Abel's brother, Cain, offered fruit of the land (vegetation) as his sacrifice. God rejected Cain's offering because fruits represent the labor/work of his own hands. In other words, Cain was coming to God by relying on his own works. In God's eyes, that is insufficient. Cain's own efforts and good deeds could not gain God's acceptance and forgiveness. Cain's sacrifice was rejected!

God had started to teach mankind that sin could only be forgiven by sacrificing pure, unblemished animals. But how could the blood sacrifice of mere animals cover the sins of men?

Next we see God asking Abraham to sacrifice his son on Mount Moriah to demonstrate his faith in God. And Abraham's faith was so strong that he complied with God's request, and was ready to sacrifice his son. But, God stopped Abraham, and his son was saved. This would have been a wonderful story of Abraham and his son and their faith in God, even if it ended right there. But there is more.

God did something else. He provided a ram as a sacrifice, as a substitute, to save Abraham's son's life. Why did God need to do that? God was revealing how and why Abrahams' son was saved. A sacrifice of blood was required.

Surah 37:107 says *"We ransomed him (Abraham's son) with a great (momentous) sacrifice."*

There are two things we can learn from this verse.

1. RANSOM - This means that the ram provided by God Himself became a substitute, dying on behalf of Abraham's son, as a ransom.
2. MOMENTOUS SACRIFICE - Other translations of the Qur'an use the words: "great sacrifice," "tremendous (noble) victim," "magnificent slain." Who are these words describing? Abraham? His son? No, the ram!!!

What was so great and tremendous and magnificent about a mere animal, the ram, that it is described in such a manner?

If you read it in Arabic, it becomes even more astonishing. The Arabic word used for "momentous" is **al-Azzim**. This is one of the ninety-nine names of Allah! It means "the Magnificent" or "the Great One."

Why was the very name of God used to describe an animal? Because the sacrifice is a representation of something great, momentous and magnificent that is to come from God Himself. The whole incident was pointing to God's ultimate plan to ransom, not just Abraham and his son, but the entire world!!!

Why does God require and accept a sacrifice? Because God wants us to understand something...

"... without shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness of sin)." (Hebrews 9:22)

This is the reason for the Jewish rituals of animal sacrifice, that we read about in the Torah. Rituals required by the Law of God (given to Moses) for the forgiveness of sins.

According to the Law of God, the Jews had to bring an animal sacrifice for their sins to the temple of the Lord (Leviticus 1:2). They put their hands on the head of the animal as a sign of the sin being transferred from them to the sacrificial innocent animal (Leviticus 1:4). The animal was sacrificed instead of them as a ransom, as a substitute, in their place.

These animal sacrifices had to be repeated over and over as it only acted as a temporary cover for former sins. A Jew had to go back to the temple every year to perform this sacrifice to clean up his new sins accumulated from the previous sacrifice. This is the significance of a blood sacrifice.

But can the blood of a mere animal, which is perishable, redeem and ransom a human being? No, it is only a temporary cover (Hebrews 10:1).

The only blood, that truly has power to take away sins, is imperishable, sinless blood. If God Himself comes into human flesh, He alone would have imperishable blood, which is sufficient to take away the sins of the world.

Approximately 1,800 years after Abraham, the prophet John the Baptist identified the most momentous sacrifice of all time to be the sinless Messiah, Jesus Christ, when he boldly proclaimed, *"Behold! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)

3.5"

3.75"

3.75"



