

FROM CREATION TO THE CROSS

Life is in the Blood

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Some Background Reading

(Please note: throughout this article both KJV and NIV are quoted)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (KJV)

Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (NIV)

Romans 5:12

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (KJV)

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (NIV)

Romans 5:19

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (KJV)

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 15:21-26

IN THE BEGINNING: THE GOOD WORLD

The last verse of the Bible's first chapter finishes with God's own evaluation of His six days of creating. Genesis 1:31 states that:

God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. (KJV)

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (NIV)

Most people don't notice that God called the world "very good," only after He gave instructions about diet:

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. (KJV)

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. (NIV)

Genesis 1:29-30

In God's good world, man and the animals were to only eat plants (vs 29-30). One obvious reason such a world could be labelled good, was that vegetarian animals did not kill each other for food. They did not kill man and man did not kill them. There was no death by violence - no predators and no carnivores. It was a "good" time to be alive. God had indeed made a very good world.

Genesis Chapter 2 expands the detail on the creation of man, and informs us that:

the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (KJV)

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (NIV)

Genesis 2:7

The story of Adam's creation and his being placed in the Garden of Eden (2:15) includes a point most people miss: the only negative rule Adam was given was one concerning diet, i.e. what he could *not* eat. God told him:

"of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (KJV)

"But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (NIV)

Genesis 2:7

This rule was given to the man Adam before the woman Eve had been made. It is worth noting again, that the price he would pay for eating the forbidden fruit was death. Genesis 2:18-25 completes the creation account as Eve was made and brought to Adam so that everything was then "very good".

BIBLICAL BIOLOGY

The Hebrew word for man i.e. Adam (1:26 & 2:7), became his name as well (2:19) and it contains clues to his colour and to his nature. The word ADAM includes the Hebrew DM which means blood. This is the basis of the claim that Adam was rosy or ruddy or red (not white or black). Quite literally he was a man of blood, a thought later followed up with the often repeated phrase "the life is in the blood" (Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:11,14). When Adam became a living soul (Gen 2:7) he joined the living souls that had already been created. Not other people - but the animals. The Hebrew word *nephesh* (living soul) is applied to both groups - man and animal, but never to plants.

God's definition of what is "alive" is quite different from the modern biologist. The evolutionary thinker sees a continuous spectrum from non living organic molecules and chemical elements, up to the most sophisticated DNA of human beings. Their boundary line between life and non life is usually applied to indicate that elements and individual molecules are not alive, but plants beginning with the simplest cells,

through to animals and man, are all living. God's boundary line is different. The Bible treats the elements and molecules in soil and air, along with plants, in one category. Man and animals are in the other category of soul bearing 'living' creatures or *nephesh*. This is a point we will expand on later.

THE END OF "GOOD"

The third chapter of Genesis is bad news. The Serpent (Satan) begins to work on Eve and we learn that:

when the woman saw that the tree (of the knowledge of good and evil) was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. (KJV)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (NIV)

Genesis 3:6

God's response to Adam and Eve's disobedience was swift. In 3:17, He chastises Adam with the words:

"Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;" (KJV)

"Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life." (NIV)

Genesis 3:17

Most have not noticed that Genesis 1:31 is the last time the Bible records God calling the world very good². Genesis 3:17 is the reason. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin came into the world. It was no longer 'very good'. To make things worse, God's curse upon the ground was part of their punishment. The KJV puts it very well when it says God's curse was not just because of what had been done, it was also for Adam and Eve's sake. The consequences of that curse need to be examined in detail.

THE CURSED GROUND

When He judged Adam God cursed the ground and said

"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (KJV)

"It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." (NIV)

Genesis 3:18

Next time you prick your finger on a beautiful rose bush, remember to not only give thanks to God for the beautiful colours and fragrance, but give Him thanks for the thorns and thistles He has put here for our sake. Admit with regret, that thorns and thistles are not very good, but the suffering in this world is our fault, and for our sake. When you discover the rose thorn went so deep you have become infected with tetanus and are dying, which is not good news, you are beginning to understand the basic problem. There is something wrong with Planet Earth and you need deliverance from it - you need a Saviour.

THE FIRST GOOD NEWS

After God judged Adam and Eve we are told:

Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. (KJV)

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (NIV)

Genesis 3:20-21

There have been many jokes about Adam's fig leaf falling off. So much so, that people miss the point of why Adam and Eve put fig leaves on in the first place. Somehow their disobedience promoted a conscious need for a covering. And the Lord reinforced this. He not only disapproved of their sin, He was unimpressed by their fig leaf covering. God took skins from animals and made Adam and Eve a covering for Sinners that was acceptable to Him.

There are two things here to remember - the first is that man does not wear clothes because we decided to enhance our beauty. We don't wear them because it is cold or hot. Clothing as a complete covering was God's response to the fact man had become a sinner.

The second aspect ties together the facts that Adam was the "man of blood", and animals and man are living souls, but plants are not.

Adam now had a puzzle to solve. God does not lie (Numbers 23:19). He warned man that when he sinned he would surely die. Yet Adam and Eve were still alive? God has forced them to admit they have sinned. They know they deserve the death penalty, but they have not been put to death. They stand alive, fully clothed in the skins of recently killed animals. Somewhere there is a hidden principle. Adam and Eve are living, but nearby are dead animals, skins removed, whose bloodied bodies lie still, on the now cursed ground. Adam would have been quick to realise he was not dead, only because an innocent animal had given its life in exchange for his. His sin had been literally covered by the shedding of blood. One other thing - there is no evidence the sacrificed animal had its bones broken!

HOW COULD ADAM HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

If he did not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam would never have known death. He would have had free access to the Tree of Life. He could have lived for ever. His eternal life depended in one real sense, on what he did **not** do. His dying depended on what he **did** do. Let us make it very clear that God was under no obligation to tell Adam what the rules were. It was only because God was **gracious** that he told Adam to not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

If Adam had never eaten the forbidden fruit, he would not only have not known what it tasted like, he would not have understood experientially what death really was. If he had obeyed God, he would never have experienced the need to have eternal life. His possessing eternal life would have been on the basis of **faith** in what God had said. And since Adam was a newly created being any ability he had – any faith he had was not self generated but a result of what God his creator had given him. Adams faith was a **gift**.

He could have lived eternally on the basis of what he didn't do. His eternal life was **without works**. Adam could have had eternal life, **by grace, without works through faith** and even the faith was a **gift** – sound familiar? Since the God of the Bible is the same yesterday, today and forever, you should begin to see a familiar NT principle emerging. God and his rules never change!.

The bad news is Adam willingly chose to do the thing God told him not to do. He ate the fruit. Adam broke God's law. It was sin. The penalty was death. But here is another puzzle: the New Testament doesn't describe death as merely the penalty for sin - it uses the term wages. The apostle Paul writes

"the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (KJV)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (NIV)

Romans 6:23

Wages are a payment for what you do. They are your earnings. You get what you deserve. In this case Adam's wages were negative.

WHAT ANIMAL WAS SACRIFICED?

Adam was the first man. He was made in the image of God. He was made without fault and was the smartest man who ever lived. Several other things should therefore have been evident to him. The animal that had died and shed its blood so that he might stay alive, was one of God's creations. It was God's property and it had done nothing to deserve death. God had both provided, and accepted, a substitute in Adam's place, but the substitute had special characteristics. It had been made before sin in a world that was very good. It was therefore a "first made" creature without blemish. Since Adam and Eve had been in the

garden only a very short time³ - the animal was in the first year of its life! The animal that had saved Adam's life, had belonged to somebody else. Adam was in debt to the owner because his life had been spared at another's expense. Have you ever wondered which animal God took skins from?

BEYOND EDEN

After the judgement of Adam and Eve we are informed of a conversation within the Godhead:

the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever. Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. (KJV)

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. (NIV)

Genesis 3:22, 23

God went to great lengths, to not only send the man and woman out of the garden, but to ensure they had no access to the tree of life⁴. If the debt of their sin could not be paid off, this made it inevitable that sooner or later they would die. As a result, Adam and Eve began the slow progression from physical perfection to the dust of death. Since the newly-made world was as yet unafflicted by too many consequences of sin they lived some 930 years before their bodies caved in to the consequences of God's curse upon the ground. In that time Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters (Gen 5:4) and became painfully aware that in 930 years, you wear out many animal skins. Other creatures paid a high price to 'cover' the consequences of Adam's sin. How many skins Adam and Eve went through nobody knows, but as their lives approached an end, they could have reached another conclusion. 930 years of shedding the blood of animal substitutes, was not enough to completely cover the price of one man's sin. If it had been, Adam would have not died. But he did! In fact the more animals he killed to stay alive, the more he was in debt to the animals' maker and owner, God the Creator.

CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4 records that the first death among men came as the result of one of Adam's sons murdering another.

Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. (KJV)

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. (NIV)

Genesis 4:1-2

It pays to appreciate that the Bible sometimes covers many years in the passing of one verse. Cain and Abel have gone from birth in Gen 4:1 to being adults in the second verse. Abel kept flocks of sheep. Cain was a farmer. Since God's instruction was for man to eat plants, one reason for Abel's sheep keeping was to satisfy the need for clothing. His occupation was related to what God had done in making clothes for Adam and Eve. But Abel's keeping of sheep also probably reflected the creature God had slaughtered in Eden.

The unfolding tragedy continues:

in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. (KJV)

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. (NIV)

Genesis 4:3-5

The story of Cain and Abel is well known. Cain brought a vegetable offering to the Lord. It was rejected. Abel brought an offering of a baby lamb. God was pleased with this. Two questions arise. Why did they bring an offering, and why did God react the way He did?

Perhaps a personal illustration might help. I had to make an offering once. I did so because I felt a debt needed to be paid. A bad situation needed to be patched up - with my future mother-in-law. What had I done? I had taken her daughter out one evening to a Christian gathering, but somehow we had taken the long way home and I returned her seventeen year old daughter at 1:00am. Nothing was said. However I then took out her daughter the very next night, and found an even longer way home. Sometime between 1:00am and 2:00am, we arrived home to find mother and father standing on the front doorstep. Her father (a pastor) made it very clear that my nocturnal habits with his daughter were unacceptable. Her mother gave me "the look" to slay any young suitor. However since I had great affection for this young lady, and desired for her to become my lovely wife, I did the only thing I could think of to diffuse the situation. I brought a peace offering - a bunch of roses. Looking back, my meagre offering can't have been too impressive, since as a student I didn't have enough money to afford many roses. But I had that awful sense, that if I didn't make a payment to meet my debt of offence, the price could well be the young lady. It worked. Now I have a lovely wife, a great father-in-law, and a wonderful mother-in-law as well.

Stop and Think! I knew my future Father in Law's opinion because he told me in no uncertain terms! You now know the story also, only because I have just told you. The same was true for Cain and Abel. Whether their knowledge of sin was felt personally or otherwise, we don't know, but their first source of knowledge about the God, who had allowed a sinner to stay alive by substituting the death of an animal, was Adam, their father. There is no record until this rejected offering that God spoke directly to either Cain or Abel. They may even have asked Adam and Eve why there was a flaming cherub guarding Eden and their parents could have told them the embarrassing reason. Somehow Cain and Abel felt a real debt to God, so they brought Him an offering.

WHY DID GOD REJECT CAIN?

There is no doubt that God sees both our outside actions, and our innermost motivations. Unhappy with Cain's attitude, God was also totally unimpressed with his offering of plants. Yet God was very pleased to accept Abel's offering of a first born lamb. The New Testament emphasises God's rejection of Cain's **works**. The Apostle John counsels us to be:

not to be like Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (KJV)

Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. (NIV)

1 John 3:12

Cain's hidden attitude resulted in quite visible works, which God judged and rejected. This pattern of God judging invisible faith by its resulting visible works is reflected in the New Testament, as the apostle Peter writes:

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. (KJV)

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. (NIV)

1 Peter 1:17

Abel's offering was accepted, because it was not only offered with a good attitude, it paralleled the sacrificed animal God had accepted as a temporary substitute payment for Adam's sin in Eden. Cain could have humbled himself and asked his brother for a baby lamb in exchange for baby carrots, but he obviously didn't. The result is recalled by the New Testament writer of Hebrews.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. (KJV)

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. (NIV)

Hebrews 11:4

In other words: The right faith led to bringing the right gift, which God judged and accepted or rejected. As James said: show me your faith and I'll show you my works (James 2:18). It never pays to separate **faith** from **works**. They go hand in hand. That is why the writer to Hebrews continues about the actual sacrifice of Christ when he states:

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (KJV)

to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (NIV)

Hebrews 12:24

In other words: the way in which Christ died (his sacrifice) was a better sacrifice than the one which Abel offered.

Again we must be reminded that modern evolutionist thinking sees lettuces and lambs as merely different branches on the great evolving tree of life. God does not. In Genesis 1, the parallelism seen in the Creation account only serves to emphasize this. Days one, two and three provide the basic framework of Creation - the physical environment which living things will fill and use by the end of day six. God made the land, the water, the air and plants, which the fishes, the birds, the insects and man depend upon. The first three days of Creation are limited to the physical. The last three include that which God regards as life. The first three days include no soul principle, no blood, and hence no life. The biologists' definition of death and God's view greatly differ. Cabbages and carrots are not alive, they are soulless machinery.⁵

THE INHERITANCE PRINCIPLE

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). Inheritance is not something you earn. It is something you are given because you belong to a family. You can inherit only that which belongs to the owner and the ownership is passed to you. So how do the meek inherit the earth?

When God made Adam, there were certain things He graciously gave man. One was planet earth. The scripture is emphatic that the "Lord has given the earth into the hands of man" (Psalm 115:16). Adam did not pay for the earth. He didn't earn it. His Heavenly Father gave it to him. Adam is described in Luke 3:38 as the "Son of God". The Earth was a gift - an inheritance. When Adam died, this inheritance passed from Adam as earthly father, to his Adamic sons. They likewise had not paid for the earth. They had not earned it from their father. They were merely his heirs to receive it. But inheritance is a principle we like only one side of. If mum and dad die and leave three million dollars in the will, it is rare to hear anybody state they don't want the money because it is unfair. They haven't earned it. They don't deserve it. On the other hand if dad dies with a hundred thousand dollar debt, people complain loud and long, it is not right they should inherit daddy's debt. Sadly you can't have it one way and not the other. If you want the unfair privilege of receiving undeserved, unearned benefits through inheritance, then you must accept the just consequence of also being able to inherit debt.

Here is where Cain and Abel's actions find their real origin. As we have already stated, if Adam could have killed enough animals to pay the debt of his sin, he would not have physically died. But he did. Nine hundred and thirty years after he sinned. Since he died, his debt of sin was unpaid. His children therefore not only inherited the world God had given their father, but sadly they inherited the residue of Adam's debt of sin. As the apostle Paul put it, in Adam we have all sinned and died (Rom 5:12-17). Cain and Abel made an offering because they were in debt - not to their father, but to the Creator God, who held the mortgage on man's life. Only Abel's offering was accepted. Did you notice the type of animal Abel offered? It set a pattern which occurs over and over again in scripture to the coming of Christ as Saviour.

THE ANGEL OF DEATH

Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt, some three thousand or so years later, only because God gave the people a saving substitutionary sacrifice.

The Lord instructed Moses to obtain a

lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: (KJV)

The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.” (NIV)

Exodus 12:5

God also told Moses:

“In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.” (KJV)

“It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.” (NIV)

Exodus 12:46

In this well known story, the people of Israel were told to take the shed blood of the lamb⁶, and place it on the door post. When the angel of the Lord passed over Egypt that night, he would spare those who were covered by the shedding of the lamb's blood. The lamb was a male without blemish in the first year of its life. The parallelism to Adam and Abel is undeniable. But two additional facts are stated: the sex of the animal, and the fact that its bones were not to be broken. This brings to light a further aspect of God's character and consistency. The Old Testament teaching of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is well known to most. But few know the whole of it includes a statement about Life for Life, as set out in Deuteronomy:

thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (KJV)

Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (NIV)

Deuteronomy 19:21

The eye for eye bit is easy to understand. If you steal \$10, God's judgement is you must give the \$10 back. On top of that, in Old Testament times, you had to pay an additional penalty to the priest, get publicly slapped on the hand and make an offering to the Lord for your offence. If you murdered somebody the same principal applied. The price you paid was **life for life**. Your life for theirs. So why a male lamb?

The apostle Paul emphasises something which in today's pro-feminist society, is missed by most Christians. In **Romans 5:12** he states **‘with one man sin came in to the world’**. When I first read this, I felt a little annoyed because I am a man. I was sure Eve was the one who was to blame. She had tempted man and got us all into problems. It was her fault! However the Bible is emphatic that Eve was deceived - fooled by the subtlety of the devil (1Timothy 2:12-15). Adam was not. Adam deliberately chose to eat the fruit, after having been personally told by God to not do so. Eve was not. Adam knew full well what the penalty was. It was not Eve who brought sin into the world. If her husband had chosen to not sin, then he, the sinless son of God (Luke 3:38), would have been able to intercede on behalf of his bride who had been ‘tricked’ into falling. Sadly Adam did choose to sin, and through that one man, sin came into the world and death passed on to his every descendant. Adam was a male. The only sin substitute which could be made, eye for eye, life for life, had to be the same sex. Moses' lamb had to be a male⁷.

Now why were they not to break its bones? You could perhaps guess that the sacrifice in Eden had not had its bones broken and it is certainly true that this theme is followed for the rest of Scripture leading up to the sacrifice of Christ, so that none of His bones were to be broken.

THE HIGH COST OF SIN

A brief look at later kings of Israel who were concerned with keeping God's laws, shows Solomon (who built the temple) was very thorough in his debt repayment offerings. The writer of Chronicles informs us that at the dedication of Solomon's temple around 1000BC:

the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God." (KJV)

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God. (NIV)

2 Chronicles 7:4-5

Those of us who are Christians live in a day when we are not used to seeing such sacrifices. We are painfully unaware of the high cost of sin. Figure out the monetary value of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. Even if you allow only \$1 a kilogram (2.2lbs) for the meat, the cost of the sin substitute was enormous. The ugliness of sin is also reflected in the amount of blood shed by Israel in payment of their sin as they slaughtered such a vast number of animals. The New Testament writer of Hebrews enforces this when he reminds the Jews that "without the shedding of blood" God would grant no remission of sin. (Hebrews 9:22). But Solomon had to do it again the next year. All these animals were not enough to pay off the sinners' debt to God. If they were, Solomon would not have died, but he did!

THE FINAL PAYMENT

John, the New Testament apostle, wrote about John the Baptist when he stated:

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (KJV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (NIV)

John 1:29

The sin would be taken away by his crucifixion, but how? When Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross at Calvary, there can be no doubting he was male. There can be no doubting he was without blemish. Scripture is emphatic he was without sin. And here's the crunch line. **Non-Sinners don't die!** Death is not a result of man's biology, but his morality. Death is the penalty for sin. Therefore the sinless Christ was dying by choice. Christ was dying as a substitute; as 'the Lamb of God' whose blood was shed in payment of somebody else's debt. The cycle of God's justice was now complete. One man Adam sinned, so one man Jesus had to die to pay the penalty of sin. One man's sin bought death, so one man's death could buy forgiveness of sin. But one man's blemished life was 'in the blood'; so only one unblemished man's blood could be shed as a substitute.

Jesus could not have been strangled. He could not have been poisoned. He could not have died by having his legs broken, as the two thieves beside Him did. It was not just the fact of his death that mattered. It was the way he died as well. The first man's sin had been temporarily covered by the shedding of blood and death of a substitute. Now the first man's sin was permanently covered by the shed blood of the sinless son of God (in such a manner that "not a bone of Him would be broken" [John 19:33-36, Psalm 34:20, Psalm 22:17]). The debt the first man had left for his children to inherit was now paid in full. God's proviso was simply that all you need do to take advantage of exemption from your due penalty of death and sin, is to humble yourself and ask for it. To humbly ask to be readmitted to God's Family, so you can receive your inheritance from your Heavenly Father: eternal life. The apostle Paul writes:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (KJV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)

Ephesians 2:8-9

This is the same pattern we saw in Genesis. Eternal life only **by grace, through faith, and without works**. But did you notice John the Baptist didn't call Jesus by the name of just any animal - he used the word **lamb** - Why?

THE ETERNAL PLAN

The fisherman disciple Peter wrote in that

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (KJV)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (NIV)

1 Peter 1:18-20

This may help you to understand how we can be fairly sure it was a lamb which God substituted for Adam in Eden. God had the payment, the atonement for sin planned before the foundation of the world. The Devil didn't catch Him out in Eden. The Creator had all bases covered already.

The shedding of the lamb's blood through the physical death of Christ followed by his physical resurrection from the dead is sure evidence that the believer will be raised from death into eternal life, and receive a new physical and perfect body in place of this sin cursed one. The Christian need no longer fear physically dying.

If the disciple is going to receive a new body to replace this sin ravaged one, why don't we receive an eternal body the instant we believe? Because you would be afflicted to live forever in a world still subject to the curse God put upon it. This curse will only be done away when God remakes the heavens and the earth. Then He will dwell with the people of God in the beauty of His holiness forever (Revelation 21:22). Only then will the last enemy of goodness have been overcome. The apostle Paul wrote:

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (KJV)

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 15:26

Now that's **good news!** It's the basis of the Gospel, which is about where spiritual and physical death came from and what the solution to the problem of both types of death is. But how do you share it with someone who has the false and supposedly scientific evolutionist's view of where death came from?

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Think about the **Evolutionist's** view on the origin and history of life:

They don't believe the world was ever good - just natural. Nature red in tooth and claw, with thorns, thistles and weeds is just the way it is.

They do not accept there was a paradise lost.

They do believe death is a natural process – a biological necessity not a moral penalty.

Such a false view about where death came from creates a communication problem in sharing with an evolutionist the only solution to death, i.e. the Gospel.

You can overcome this barrier preventing understanding of the Gospel, only by starting "In the beginning ...", and explaining the whole Gospel from Genesis to Revelation.

Footnotes:

1. *Nephesh*: This word is translated in Genesis 1:21 & 24 as “living creature”, and in Genesis 2:7 (referring to man) as “living soul”. This thought is carried into the New Testament by the Apostle Paul:

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (KJV)

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. (NIV)
1 Corinthians 15:45

2. The fact that the world is “not good” is a point made by Jesus, as recorded in Matthew’s gospel: in where Matthew records

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (KJV)

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life? "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." (NIV)

Matthew 19:16- 17

Most people miss the fact that Jesus just called all of us “no good”, and this doesn’t sit well with mankind.

3. How long did Adam and Eve spend in the Garden? The is not very long, as the first command given to the man and woman was to multiply, but Eve was not pregnant
4. Access to tree of life will not granted again until the New Heavens and Earth (Revelation 22:2)
5. To make a scientific extrapolation at this point: if mankind wants to create life from scratch, most probably we may be able to create the biological machinery called plants which do not involve the soul principle.
6. Exodus 12:5 “take from the sheep or goats”. Note the biological and Bible accuracy. Sheep and goats are the same kind. Our breeding has divided them
7. Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement. KPR means “covering” and is the same root word used in covering for the ark (Genesis 6:14) which saved Noah, and of the gold covering on top of the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:7).
8. The day to celebrate the Passover is given in Exodus 12:5,6,12 and Leviticus 23:4-6. The actual date is determined by the Jewish lunar calendar, i.e. it is determined by the moon’s cycle. This is why the date of the Passover and Easter varies each year.
9. Sacrifices have ceased by Jews since the destruction of the Temple in AD70
10. Death is a result of moral judgement. It is not a biological necessity. Mortality comes from Immorality. Immortality comes from morality.
11. Given Genesis 1:29 & 30, would it have been sin for one animal to kill and eat another in a good world? What do you think? Let us know!