

# Sacrifices

in the Ancient Near East

# Why do you think both Israel and the pagans had animal sacrifices?



- Did Cain and Abel know that God required blood sacrifices?
- Cain killed his brother Abel because God did not like Cain's sacrifice

# One's View of God Affects His View of Sacrifices, Morality & Mission

## Pagan

Horrible god



Man seen as OK in comparison



Seeks pleasure & material needs



Sacrifices appease deity for sex, food & money



Local deity makes them rich



Massacre others for wealth

## Israel

Holy God



Man seen as sinful



Seeks spiritual needs



Sacrifices atone for sin to reconcile God & man



God forgives sin



Mission to others for their good

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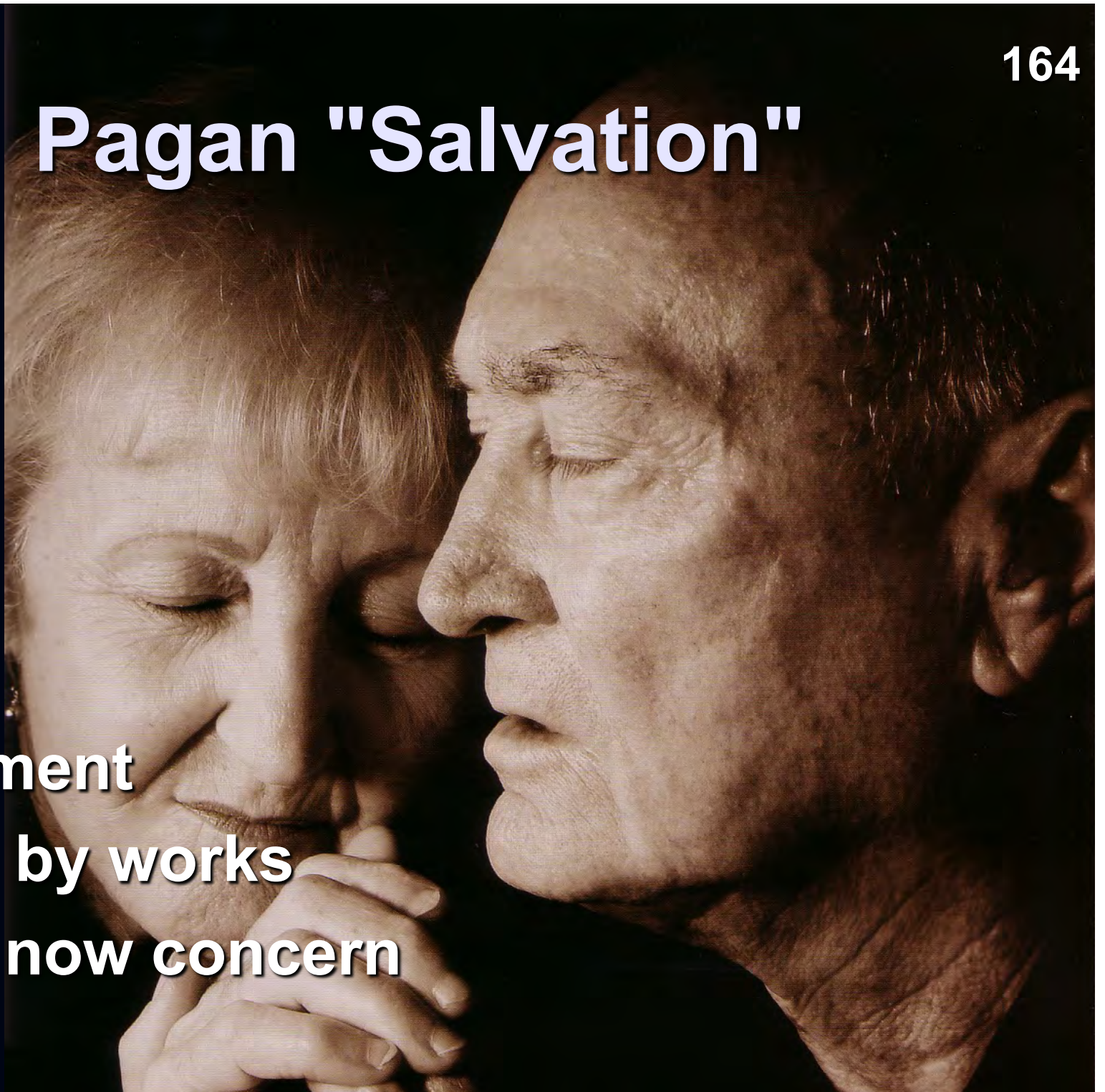


Mission to others for their good

**We become like the God we worship!**

# Pagan "Salvation"

- **Appeasement**
- **Salvation by works**
- **Here and now concern**



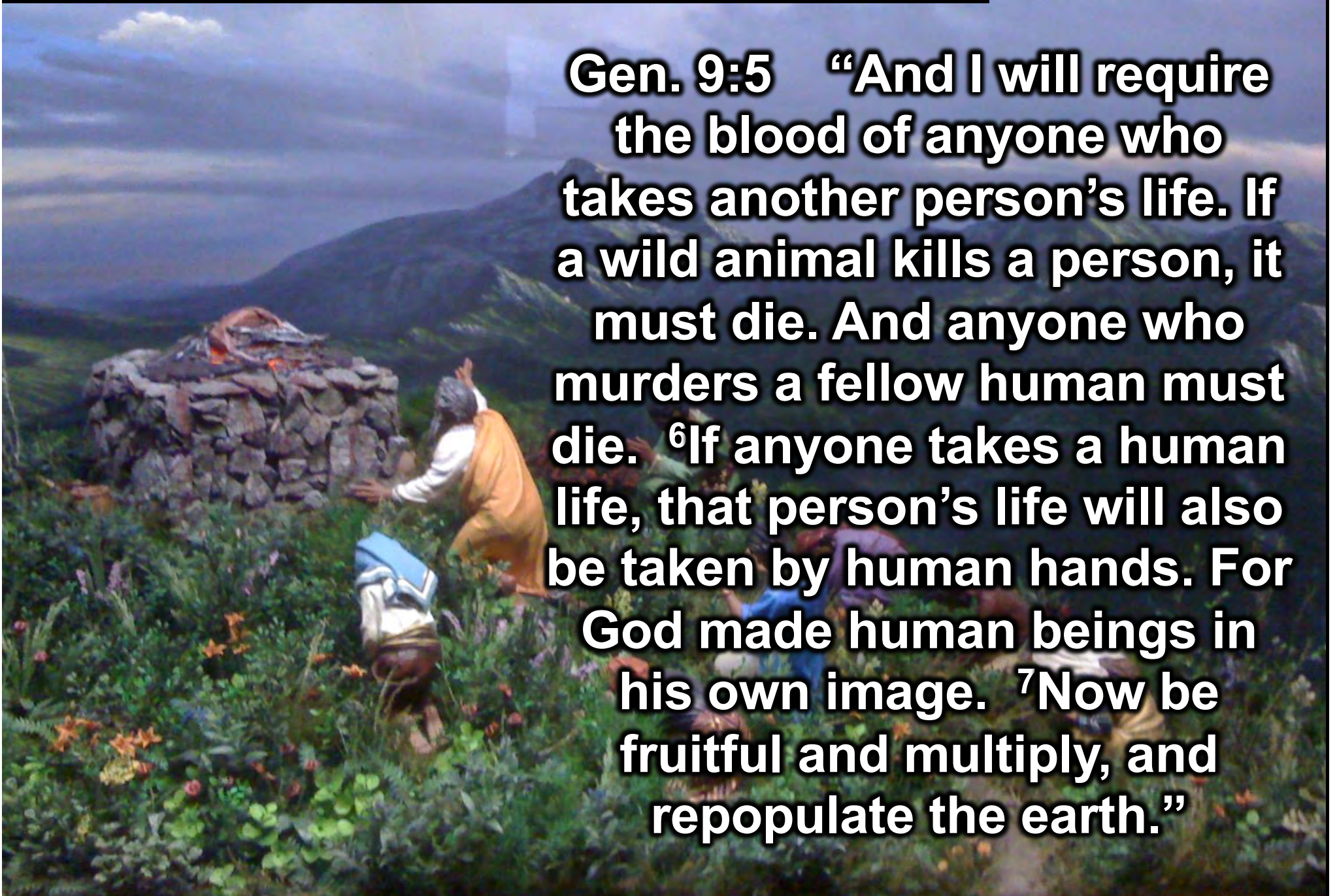
A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells, which are small, biconcave discs with a reddish-pink hue, filling the background of the slide.

# What's the<sup>4</sup> Significance of Blood?

**"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything  
be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding  
of blood there is no forgiveness"  
(Heb. 9:22 NIV)**

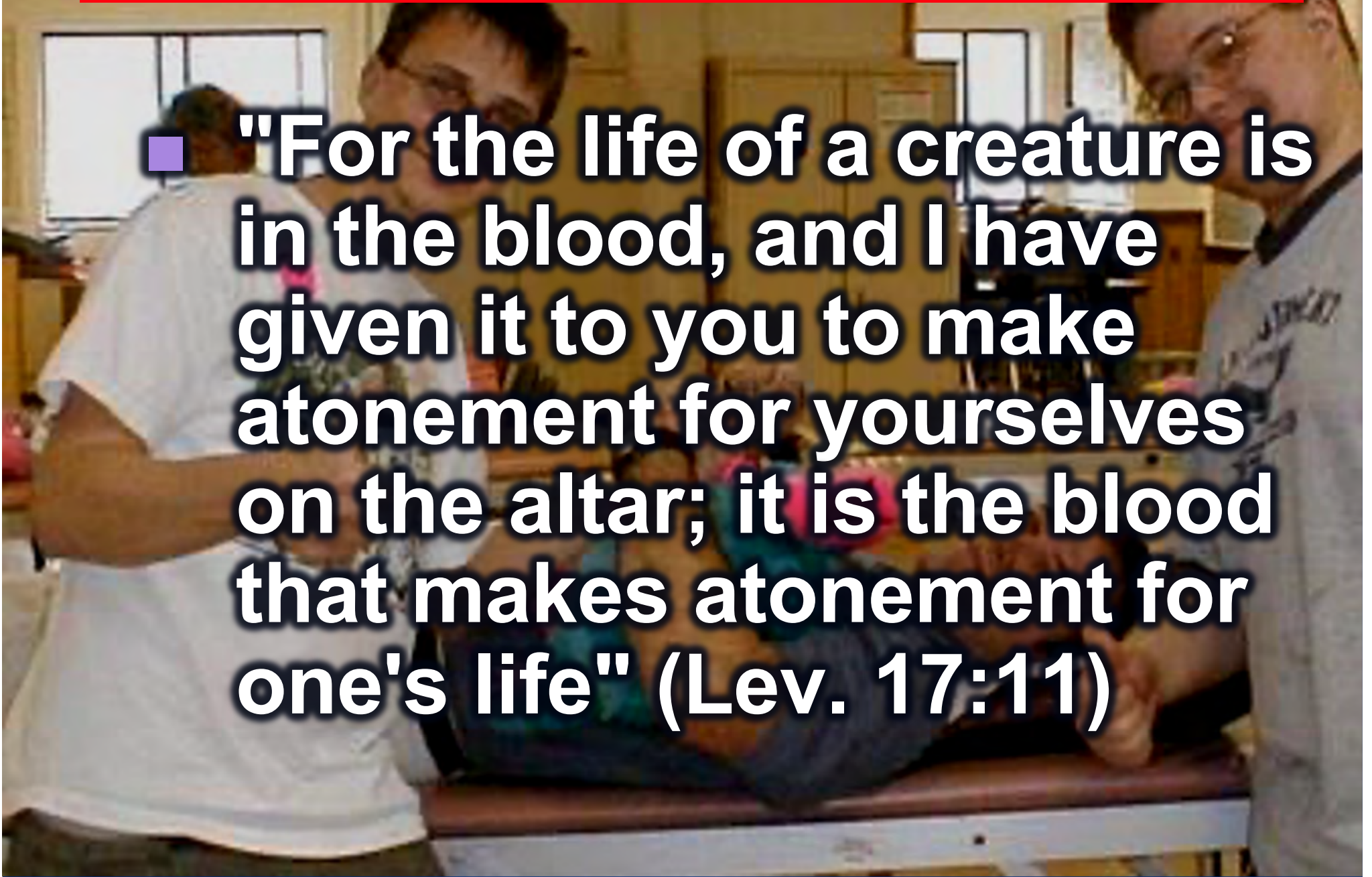
# Capital Punishment Begins

**Gen. 9:5** “And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person’s life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. <sup>6</sup>If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image. <sup>7</sup>Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth.”



**"The life is in the blood"**

- **"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev. 17:11)**





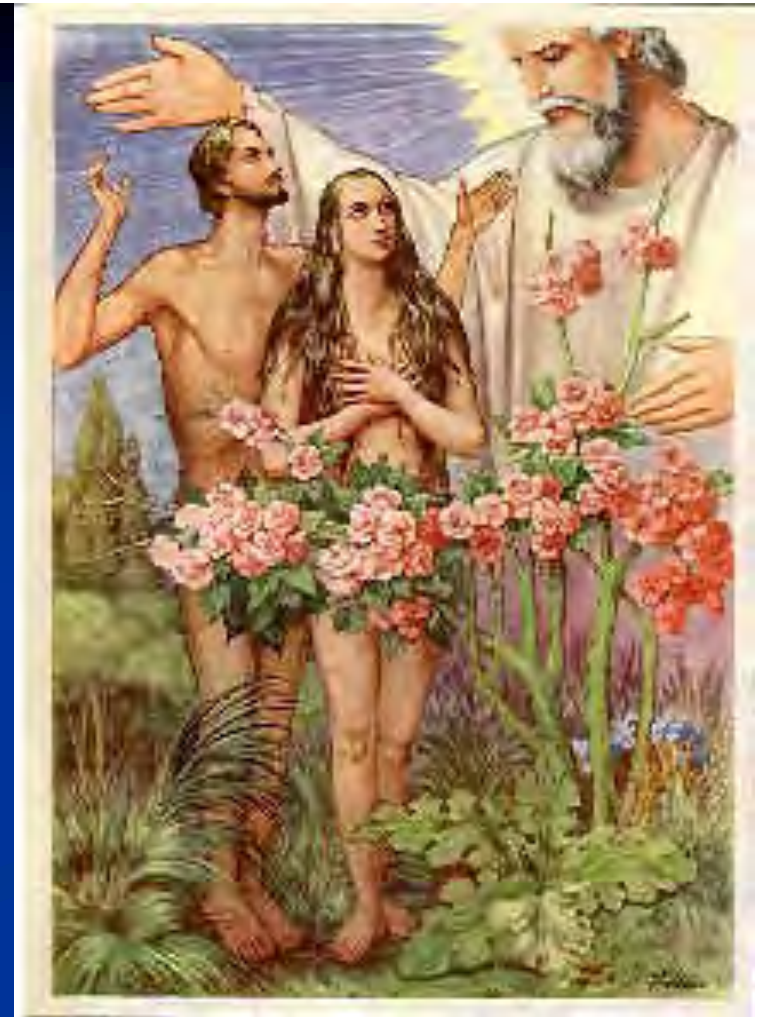
# Blood of Appeasement?

ap· pease *tr.v.* ap· peased, ap· peas· ing,  
ap· peas· es

- To bring peace, quiet, or calm to; soothe.
- To satisfy or relieve: *appease one's thirst.*
- To pacify or attempt to pacify (an enemy) by granting concessions, often at the expense of principle.

[www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)

# Adam & Eve



- They were naked and unashamed



# Man's Attempts to Cover Shame

- Ok, ok, so they actually used fig leaves. . .

# Origin of Blood Sacrifice

**"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21)**

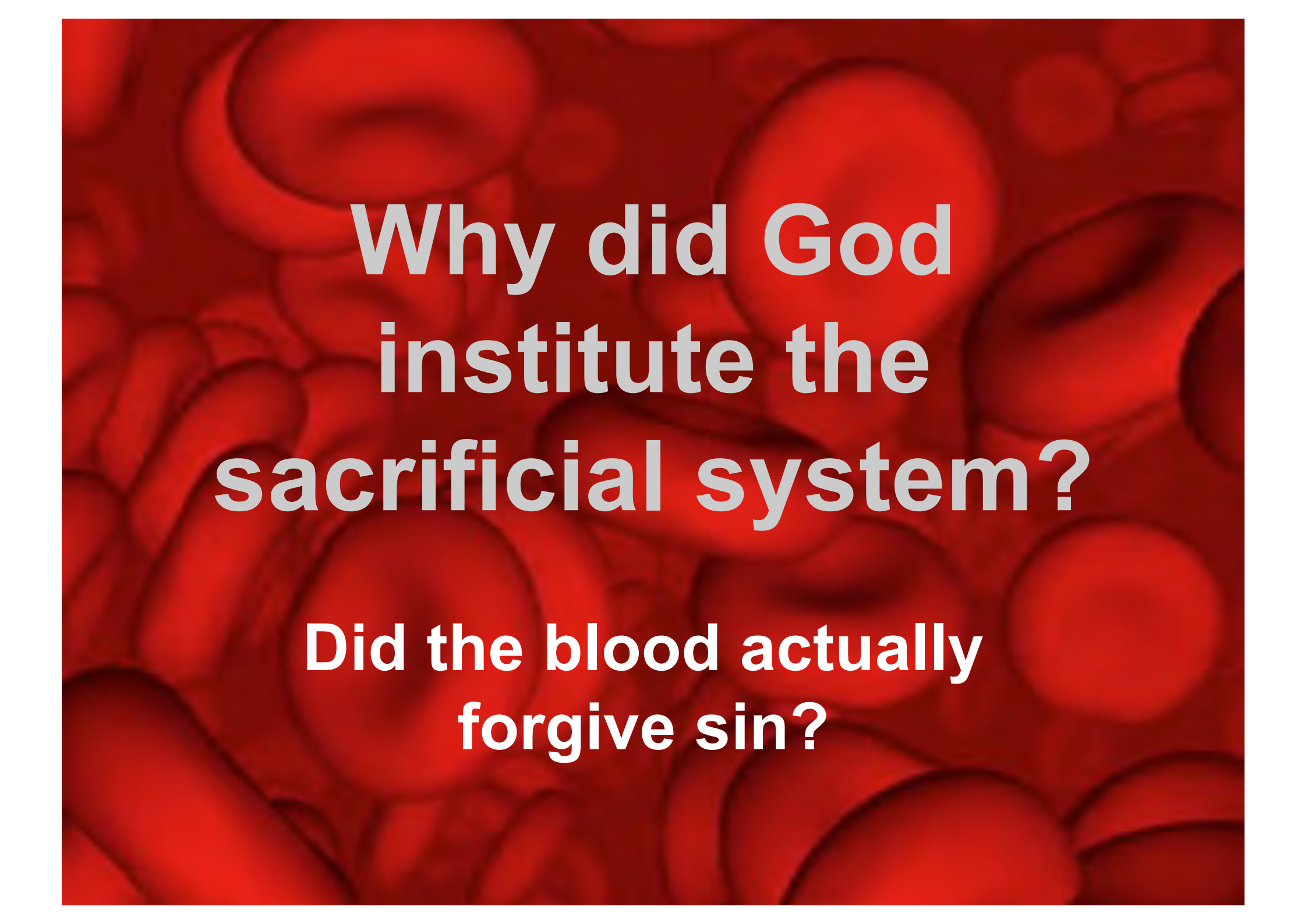


# Why did God prescribe **offerings** for Israel's weaknesses and sins?



God forgave Israelites through  
the blood of **offerings**  
(Lev 4:1–5:13; 6:24-30).



The background of the slide is a deep red color, overlaid with a pattern of stylized, semi-transparent red blood cells. The cells are depicted with dark outlines and lighter red centers, creating a textured, biological appearance.

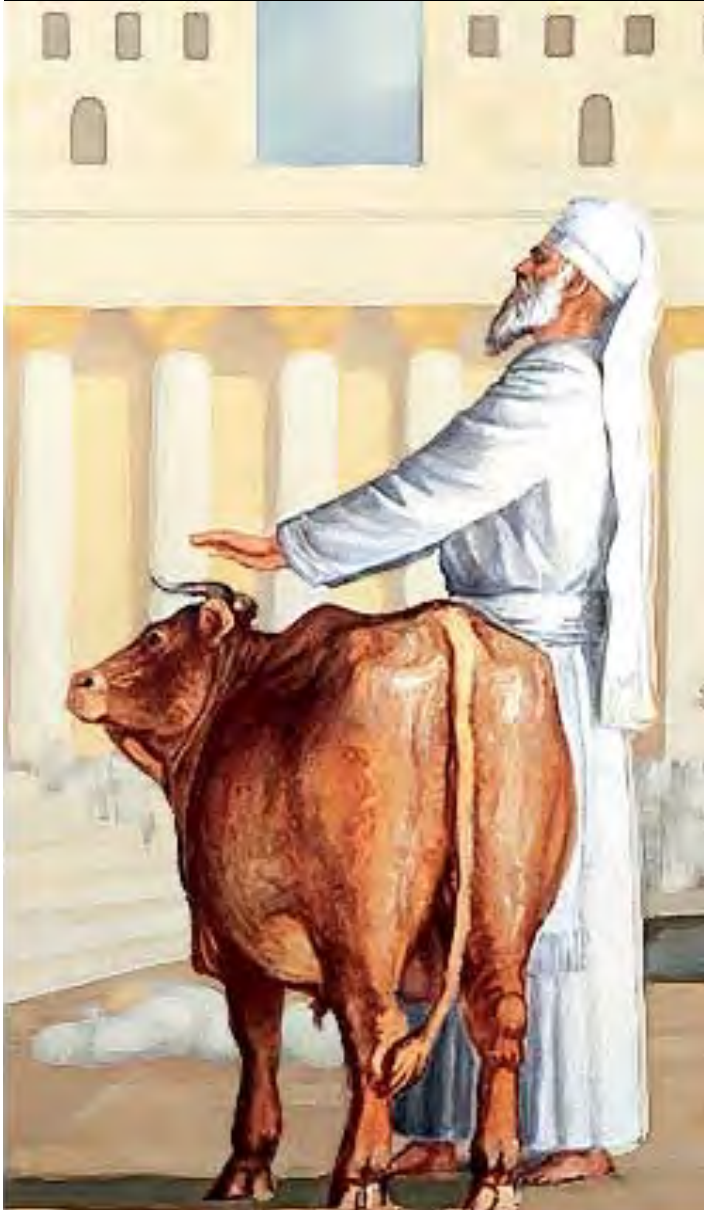
**Why did God  
institute the  
sacrificial system?**

**Did the blood actually  
forgive sin?**

**Did blood sacrifices save  
Israelites under the Law?**

**BLOOD**  
**BLOOD**

# Sacrifices forgave sin



"Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the LORD, and **they will be forgiven**"  
(Lev 4:20 NLT;  
cf. 4:26, 31, 35).

# Which is the Most Accurate?

*Salvation by...*

OT	Works	Faith + Works	Faith Alone	Faith + Works
NT	Faith	Faith Alone	Faith Alone	Faith + Works

- *Which verses in the Bible support your answer?*

*Salvation in All Ages:*

# The Centrality of the Cross

B.C.

Looked

*forward* to the  
Cross of Christ



A.D.

Look

*back* at the  
Cross of Christ

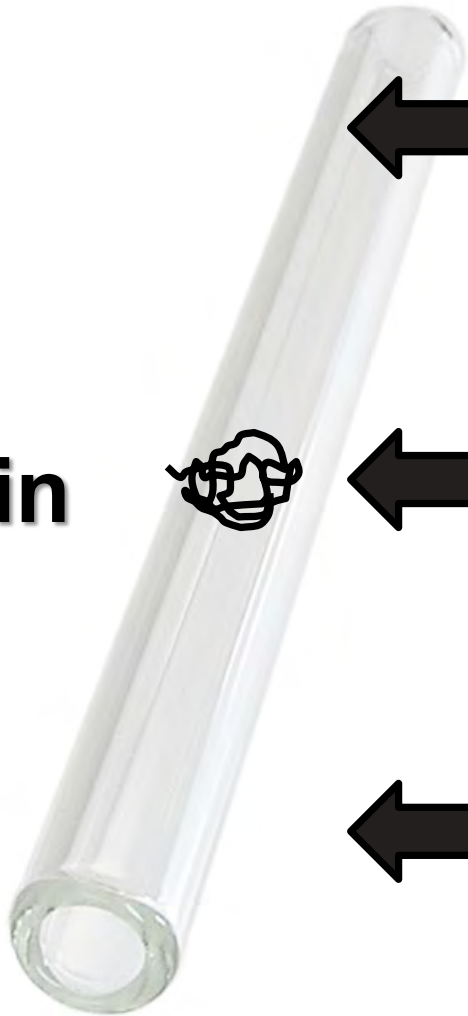




# OT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

**Sin**



← Pipe = **Relationship** with God  
(never changing)

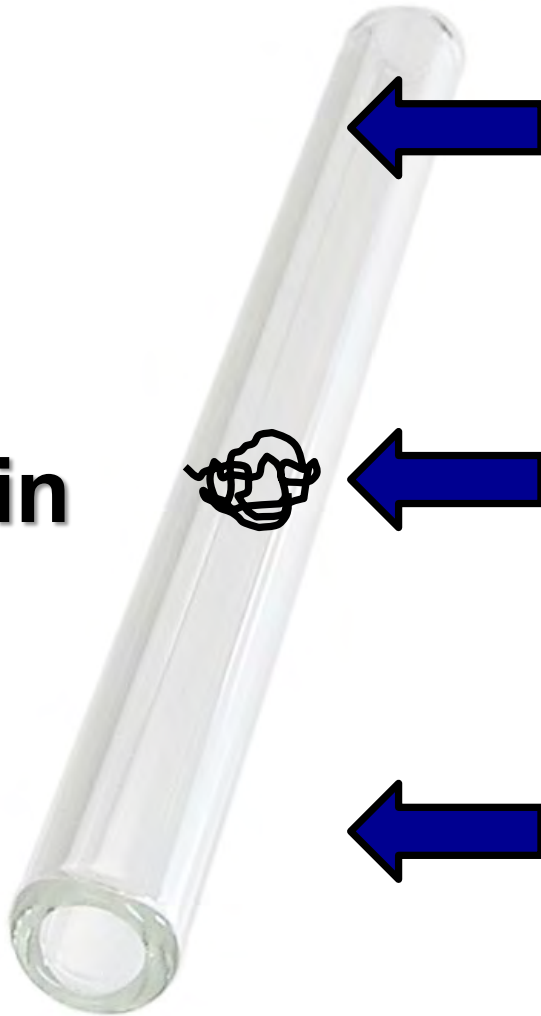
← Clog = **Fellowship** with God  
(hindered by sin)

← Sacrifices = **Confession** of Sin  
(sin forgiven to restore  
fellowship but relationship  
was never threatened)

# NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe = **Relationship** with God  
(never changing)

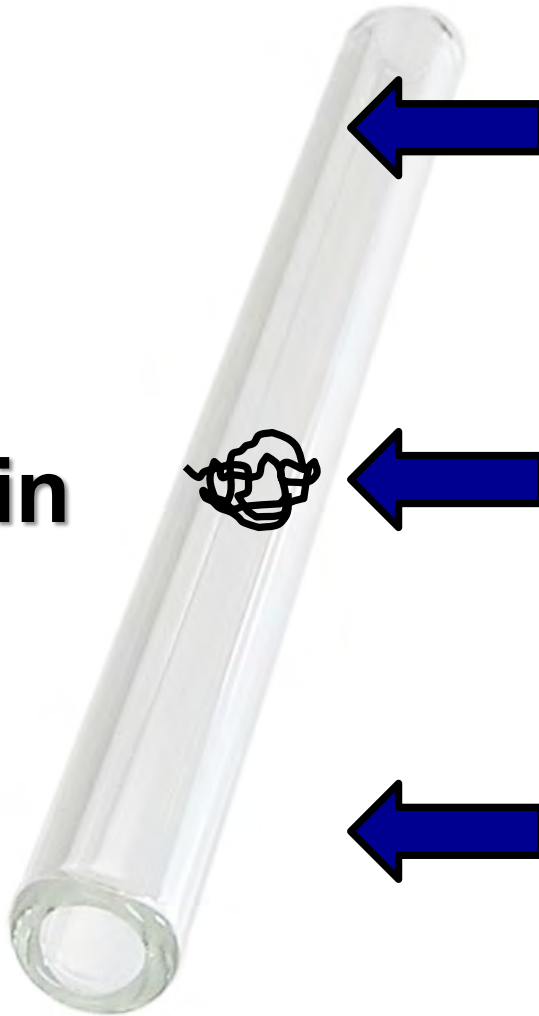
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Christ's Sacrifice = The Basis  
for **Confession** of Sin (sin is  
forgiven to restore fellowship  
but relationship has never  
been never threatened)

# NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe  
(new)

"If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and righteous  
to forgive us our sins and  
to cleanse us from all

Clog  
(hindrance)

unrighteousness"  
(1 John 1:9 NAU)

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# Salvation in the Old Testament

176

	<b>OT Times (Moses to Christ's Death)</b>	<b>NT Times (Christ's Death to Today)</b>
<b><i>Basis</i> of Salvation</b>	God's gracious provision of the death of Christ ("it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life," Lev. 17:11b)	God's gracious provision of the death of Christ ("without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness," Heb. 9:22)

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<b><i>Believer's Expression of Salvation</i></b>	Obey moral law, offer animal sacrifices, obey Mosaic law (civil and ceremonial aspects)	Obey moral law, observe Lord's Supper and baptism, etc. through the Spirit's enabling (Rom. 8:9)

## Sanctification through sacrifice and separation



**1-10      Sacrifice  
(worshipping God)**

**11-27    Separation  
(walking with God)**

# Subjective & Objective Salvation

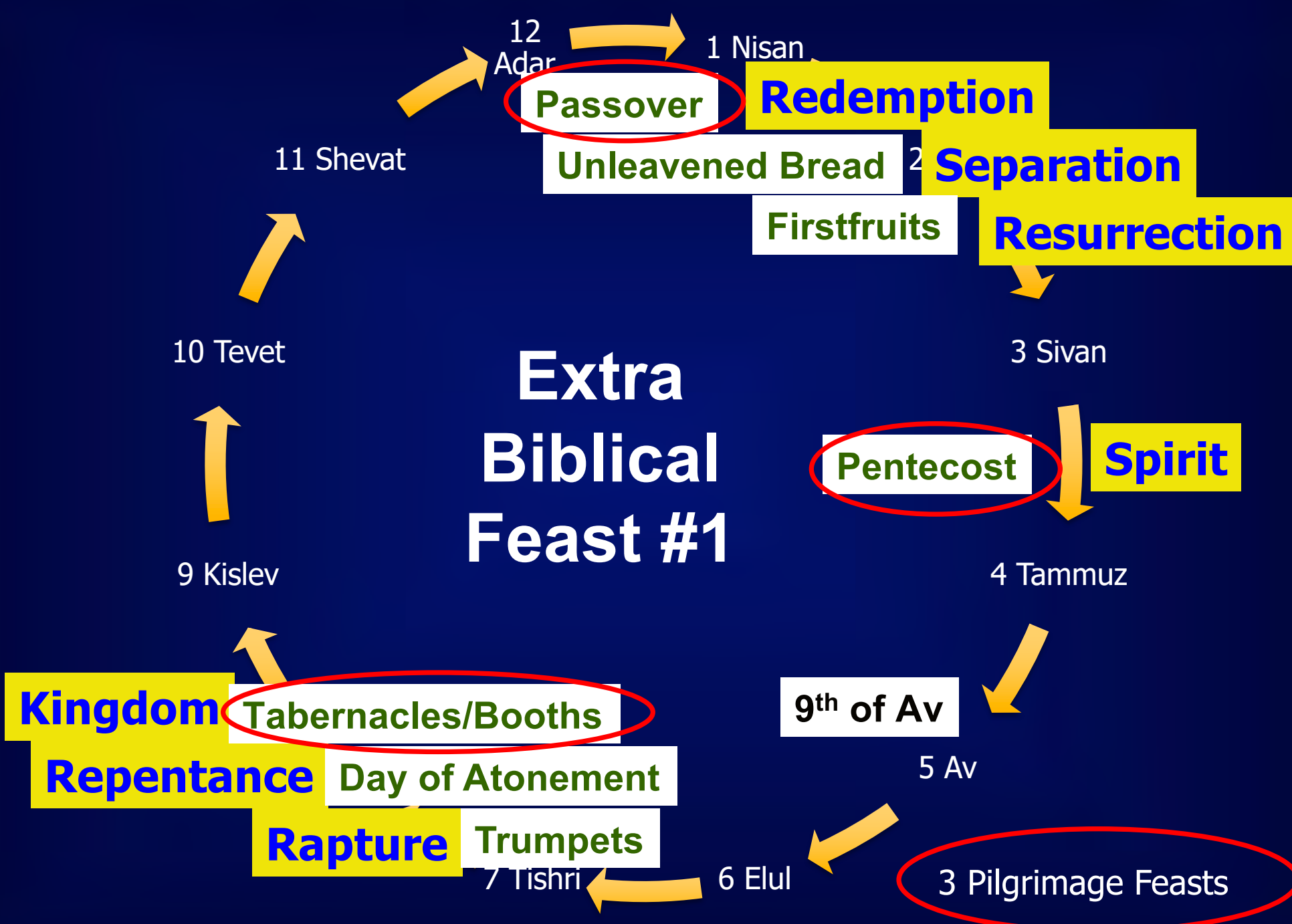
## Objective

- Removal of Sin
- Payment for Sin
- Christ's death as basis or ground of salvation

## Subjective

- Forgiveness of Sin
- Cleansing from Sin
- Covering (down payment)
- Hebrews 10:4

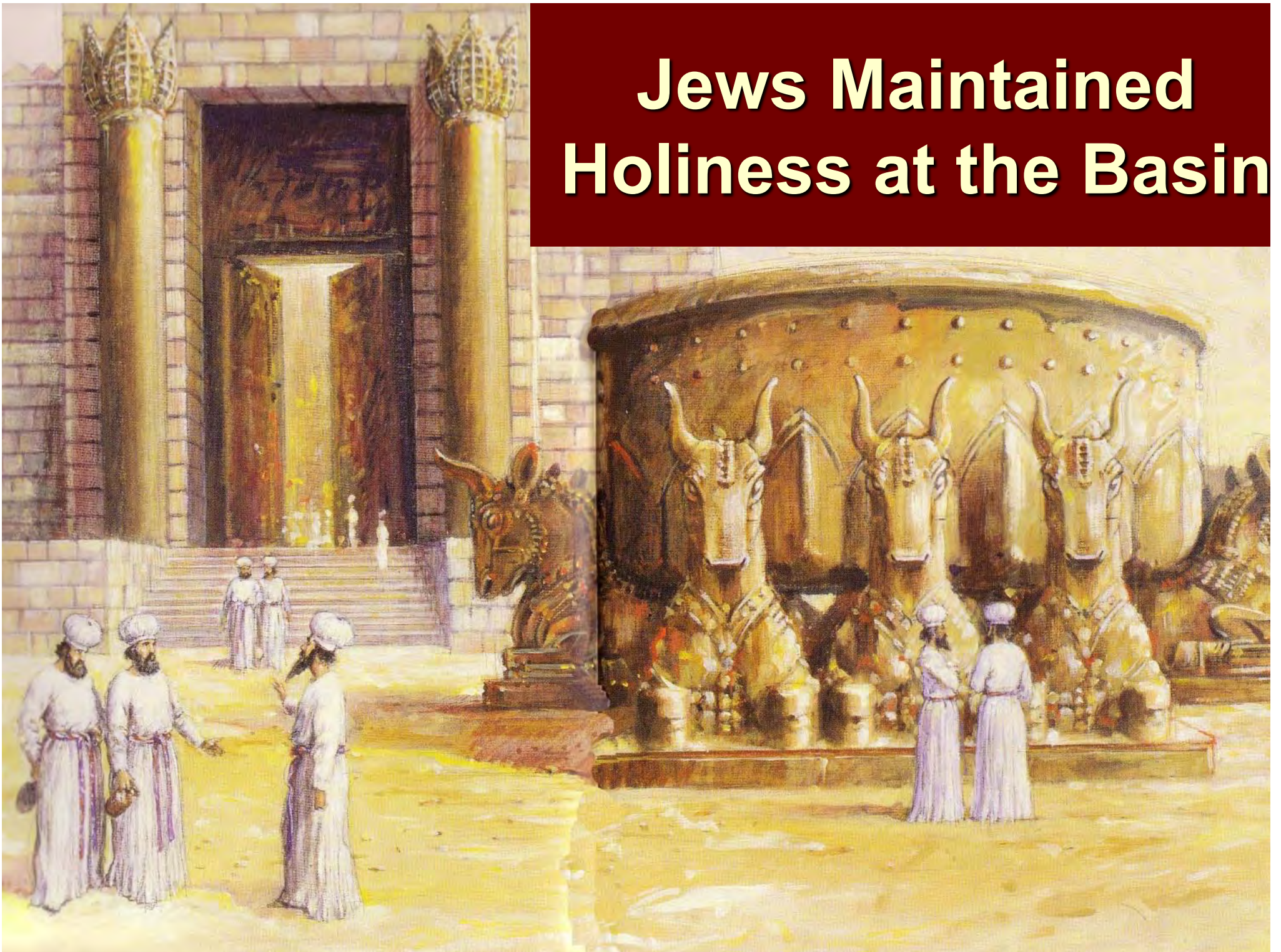
# Extra Biblical Feast #1





Jewish life revolved around Solomon's temple for 400 years (959-586 BC)

# Jews Maintained Holiness at the Basin



A painting of the Temple of Solomon, showing a large stone structure with a central doorway flanked by two tall, ornate columns. The scene is set in a courtyard with other figures and structures in the background. A prominent red diagonal line is drawn across the entire image, from the top-left to the bottom-right.

**Jews Maintained  
Holiness at the Temple**

**Temple  
Destroyed!**

**The 9th of Ab**

- **586 BC**
- **AD 70**

Tabernacle

# Offerings in Leviticus 1-7

Whole burnt offering

Grain offering

Fellowship offering

Sin offering

Guilt offering

Pillars

Linen "Hangings"

**Consecration**

• Voluntary

Laver

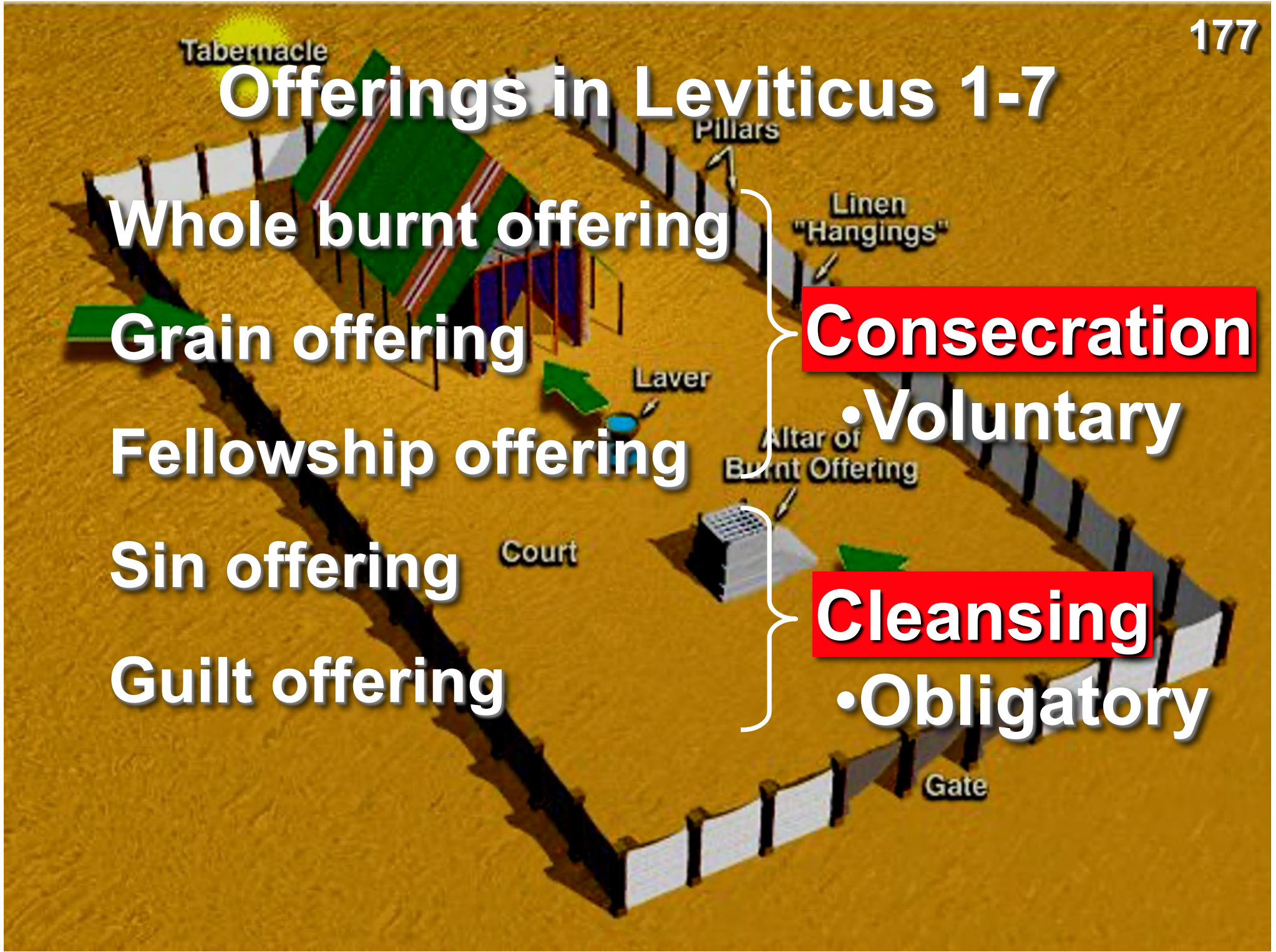
Altar of Burnt Offering

**Cleansing**

• Obligatory

Court

Gate



# Clean and Unclean

- Clean = life, health, holiness
- Unclean = death, illness, profane
- Separation and special status



# Offerings in Leviticus 1-7



Whole burnt offering	1	6:8-13
Grain/Drink offering	2	6:14-23
Fellowship offering	3	7:11-38
Sin offering	4:1-5:13	6:24-30
Guilt offering	5:14-6:7	7:1-10

**People**

**Priests**

Tabernacle

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Tabernacle

# Offering Rituals in Lev. 1–5

1. The worshipper presents his offering

2. He lays his hand(s) upon the victim, and possibly confesses his sin.

3. The worshipper slaughters the offering.

R. T. Beckwith, *New Bible Dictionary*, 1962

Tabernacle

# Offering Rituals in Lev. 1–5

Pillars

Linen  
"Hangings"

4. The priest collects the blood in a basin and dashes it against the NE and SW corners of the altar in such a way that all four sides are spattered. The remainder of the blood is then poured out at the base of the altar.

Altar of

Gate

Tabernacle

# Offering Rituals in Lev. 1–5

Pillars

Linen  
"Hangings"

5. A portion of the sacrifice is burned.

Laver

6. Any remaining portions of the sacrifice were eaten in a sacrificial meal, either by the priests and worshippers (fellowship-offering), or by the priests and their families, or by the priests alone.

Burnt Offering

Court

Gate

**Tabernacle**

**Pillars**

**Linen "Hangings"**

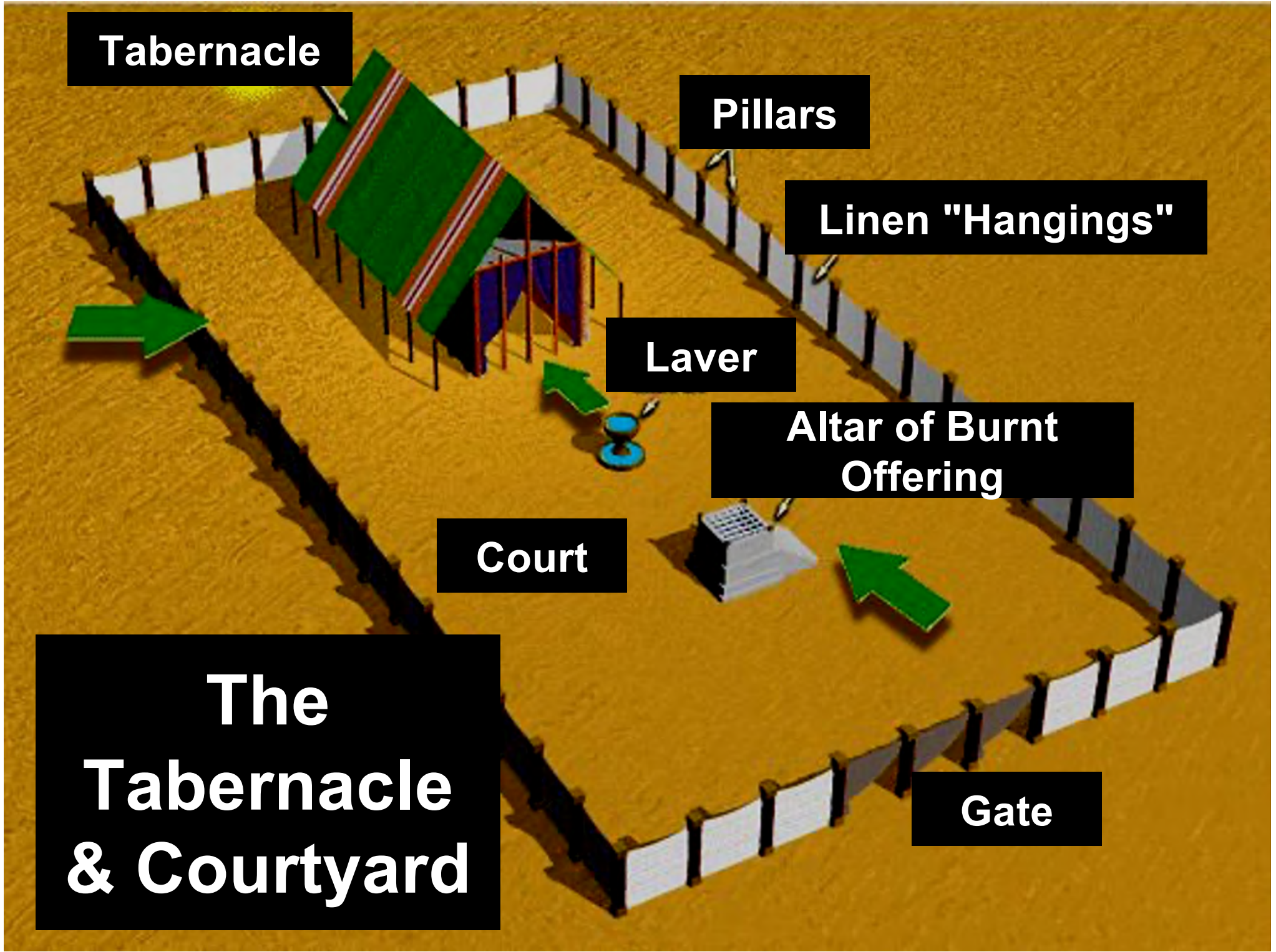
**Laver**

**Altar of Burnt Offering**

**Court**

**Gate**

**The  
Tabernacle  
& Courtyard**



	DEDICATORY		
	BURNT	GRAIN	DRINK
References	Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13	Lev. 2; 6:14-23	Num. 15:1-10; Lev. 23
Presentation: Selection of Offering	Bull (1:3), male sheep (1:10)	Grain or barley prepared in one of 5 ways: 1. Basic flour with oil; incense mixed with the part burned on the altar 2. Oven-baked cakes/wafers mixed or served with oil 3. Griddle-baked cakes, with oil 4. Pan-fried cakes 5. If <i>firstfruits</i> : crushed heads of new grain	With a bull— ½ hin With a ram— ½ hin With a lamb— ½ hin (Note: one hin = about 1 quart)
Laying on of Hands	1:4 (except for bird) (see under "Sin offering")		
Slaying of Animal	Done by worshiper except that a bird was killed by the priest (cf. 1:15)		
Preparation of Offering	Skinning, dismembering, washing (cf. 1:6, 12, 16-17)	Worshiper normally prepared it in advance. Priest separated a memorial portion for burning on the altar	F. Duane Lindsey, "Leviticus," <i>The Bible Knowledge Commentary</i> , 1:168-69

## Priest's Actions

		DEDICATORY		
		BURNT	GRAIN	DRINK
Manipulation of Blood		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blood caught in a bowl and splashed against sides of the altar (1:5, 11)</li> <li>2. Bird's blood drained out on side of the altar (1:15)</li> </ol>		
Incineration on Altar		All the animal burned on the altar (1:8-9, 12-13, 15, 17)	Memorial portion burned on the altar by the priest (all was burnt if it was the priest's own offering)	Entire libation poured out to the Lord at the sanctuary (Num. 28:7)
Distribution or Disposal of Carcass	Distribution of Disposal of Carcass	Skin (7:8)	Accompanying burnt offering: the priest ate unburned portion	
	Worshiper's portion	None	Accompanying fellowship offering: the worshiper ate unburned portion, but a small portion went to the priest	
	Remainder	Bird's crop to ash pit (1:16)		

F. Duane Lindsey,  
 "Leviticus," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*,  
 1:168-69

# Rituals for Levitical Offerings

175c

## Worshipper's Actions

	COMMUNAL	EXPIATORY	
	FELLOWSHIP	SIN	GUILT
References	Lev. 3; 7:11-36	Lev. 4:1–5:13; 6:24-30	Lev. 5:14–6:7; 7:1-10
Presentation: Selection of Offering	Bull, lamb, or goat, male or female (3:1, 6, 12; In a freewill offering, minor imperfections were permitted in animals, 22:23)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young bull (for priest or nation)</li> <li>2. Male goat (for tribal leader)</li> <li>3. Female goat or lamb (for layperson)</li> <li>4. Dove, young pigeon (for poor person)</li> <li>5. Flour (1/10 ephah; for very poor)</li> </ol>	Usually a ram (a male lamb in the case of a cleansed leper or defiled Nazarite)
Laying on of Hands	3:2, 8, 13 (see "Burnt offering")	Sinner's identification with animal or subsequent symbolic transfer of sin and legal transfer of guilt	Confession (Num. 5:7) apparently accompanied by laying on of hands
Slaying of Animal	At sanctuary entrance (see "Burnt offering")	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At sanctuary entrance for priest/nation</li> <li>2. North of altar for others (see "Burnt offering")</li> </ol>	North of altar (Lev. 7:2)
Preparation of Offering			F. Duane Lindsey, "Leviticus," <i>The Bible Knowledge Commentary</i> , 1:168-69

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## Priest's Actions

		COMMUNAL	EXPIATORY	
		FELLOWSHIP	SIN	GUILT
Manipulation of Blood		Blood caught in a bowl and splashed against sides of the altar (3:2, 8, 13)	Ritual varied according to the position of the worshiper (but involved "sprinkling" rather than "splashing" of blood), the occasion of sacrifice, or the type of animal (e.g., different if a bird)	Blood caught in a bowl and splashed against the sides of the altar (7:2)
Incineration on Altar		Choice viscera (including "fat tail" of sheep) burned on altar	Choice viscera burned on altar	Choice viscera burned on altar
Distribution or Disposal of Carcass	Distribution of Disposal of Carcass	Breast of animal was to be a "wave offering" and eaten by priests	Priest received carcass of offering by leader or layperson	Priest received carcass
	Worshiper's portion	Communal meal for the worshiper's family at proper time and place		
	Remainder	Remainder burned	Carcass burned outside the camp for priest or nation	

F. Duane Lindsey,  
 "Leviticus," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*,  
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# Special Sacrificial Rituals

175d

## Special Rituals

		DEDICATORY		
		BURNT	GRAIN	DRINK
Deconsecration	1. Of priests (Ex. 29; Lev. 8)	Ram		
	2. Of temple (2 Chron. 29)	70 bulls, 100 rams, 200 male lambs		
Purification rituals	Fulfillment of Nazirite vow (Num. 6:14-17)	Year-old male lamb	Regular grain offering, special bread offering	
	1. Broken vow (Num. 6:9-12)	Dove and young pigeon		
	2. Cleansing of leper (Lev. 14:12-20)	Year-old male lamb (dove or pigeon for poor)	Grain offering	
	3. Man (15:14-15) or woman with hemorrhage (15:29-30)	Dove or young pigeon		
	4. Woman after childbirth (12:6-8)	Year-old lamb (or dove or pigeon)		

F. Duane Lindsey,  
 "Leviticus," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*,  
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# Special Sacrificial Rituals

175d

## Special Rituals

		COMMUNAL	EXPIATORY	
		FELLOWSHIP	SIN	GUILT
Consecration	1. Of priests (Ex. 29; Lev. 8)	Ram for the ordination	Bull (special ritual)	
	2. Of temple (2 Chron. 29)	Numerous bulls, sheep, and goats	Seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs, seven male goats	
Deconsecration	Fulfillment of Nazirite vow (Num. 6:14-17)	Ram	Year-old ewe lamb	
Purification rituals	1. Broken vow (Num. 6:9-12)		Dove and young pigeon	Year-old male lamb
	2. Cleansing of leper (Lev. 14:12-20)		Year-old ewe lamb	Year-old male lamb (plus log of oil)
	3. Man (15:14-15) or woman with hemorrhage (15:29-30)		Dove or young pigeon	
	4. Woman after childbirth (12:6-8)		Dove or young pigeon	

F. Duane Lindsey, "Leviticus," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:168-69

# Special Sacrificial Rituals

175d

		DEDICATORY			COMMUNAL	EXPIATORY	
		BURNT	GRAIN	DRINK	FELLOWSHIP	SIN	GUILT
<b>Special Rituals</b>	Other	1. Jealousy ritual (Num. 5:15-26)	1/10 ephah barley meal, no oil or incense (Note: one ephah = 1/2 bushel, ca. 8 quarts)				
		2. Priest's daily grain offering (Lev. 6:19-23)	1/10 ephah fine flour				
		3. Sin offering of very poor (5:11-13)				1/10 ephah fine flour	F. Duane Lindsey, "Leviticus," <i>The Bible Knowledge Commentary</i> , 1:168-69

# Special Sacrificial Rituals

175d

	DEDICATORY		
	BURNT	GRAIN	DRINK
OCCASION	Voluntary worship: certain prescribed rituals and calendrical offerings	An auxiliary offering accompanying burnt and always accompanying fellowship offerings; could be sin offering for the very poor	An auxiliary offering normally accompanying burnt or fellowship offerings, but never with sin or guilt offering alone
DISTINCTIVENESS	Wholly burned on the altar (Lev. 1:9)	As a nonbloody offering, it accompanied bloody offerings	Wine was probably a deliberate substitute for blood of pagan libations
OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFANCE	Signified the worshipper's act of total dedication to God	Signified dedication of everyday life to God in recognition of His covenant mercies	
TYPOLOGY	Christ died as the Lamb of God in complete dedication to the accomplishment of God's will	Christ's perfect person is associated with His sacrificial death	F. Duane Lindsey, "Leviticus," <i>The Bible Knowledge Commentary</i> , 1:168-69

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175d

F. Duane Lindsey,  
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## COMMUNAL

## EXPIATORY

### FELLOWSHIP

### SIN

### GUILT

#### OCCASION

**THANK OFFERING:**  
for unexpected deliverance or blessing already granted

**VOTIVE OFFERING:**  
for blessing or deliverance granted in answer to prayer which had accompanying vow

**FREEWILL OFFERING:**  
to express thankful devotion without regard to specific blessing

Unintentional sin against divine command by an individual or the entire nation

Misappropriation or denial of rightful due to God or man, normally assessable in monetary compensation

#### DISTINCTIVENESS

Most parts eaten before the Lord by the worshiper (and his family)

(See "Occasion" above)

Sacrifice (see "Occasion" above) was usually accompanied by compensation plus fine to wronged party

#### OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The worshiper recognized the meat eaten as a token of God's covenant faithfulness

Provided atonement and forgiveness for specific unintentional sins where no restitution was involved

The ram was for expiation, accompanied by payment of restitution to the wronged party

#### TYOLOGY

Christ's death is the basis of fellowship with God and other believers

Christ died as a satisfactory substitutionary sacrifice to provide the forgiveness of sins

Christ's death atones for the damage or injury caused by sin

# Old Testament Sacrifices

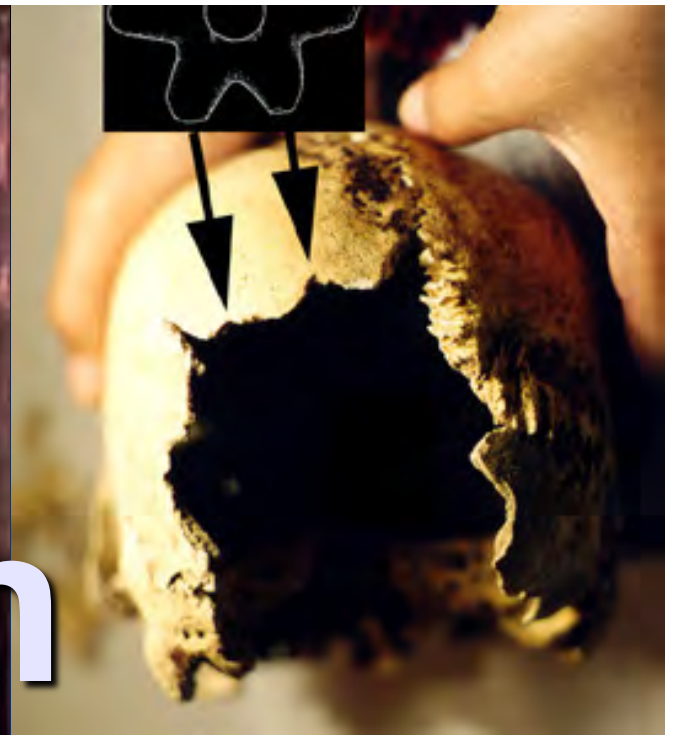
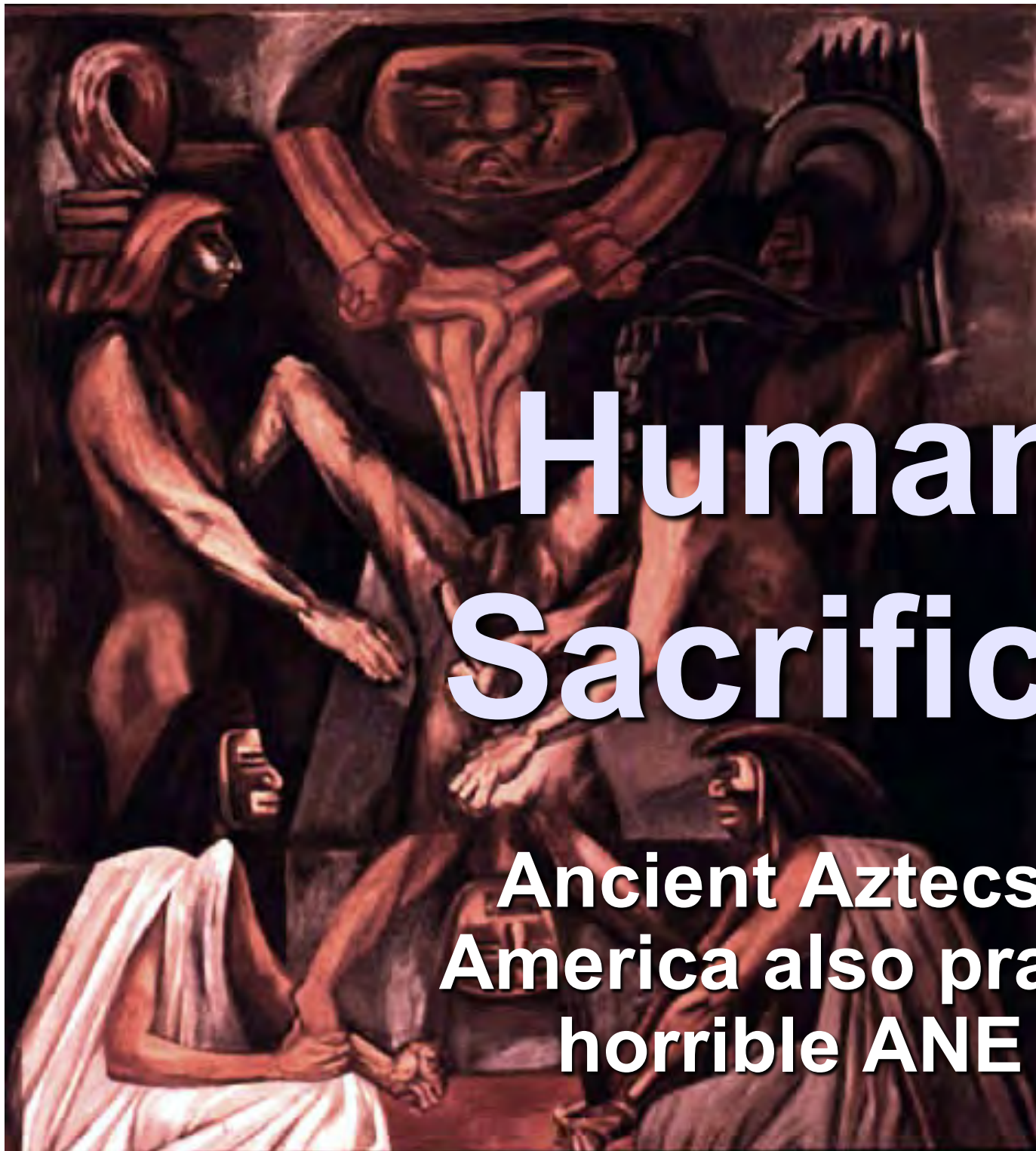
NAME	OT TEXTS	ELEMENTS	PURPOSE
<b>BURNT OFFERING</b>	Lev 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24	Bull, ram or male bird (dove or young pigeon for poor); wholly consumed; no defect	Voluntary act of worship; atone for unintentional sin in general; expressed surrender to God
<b>GRAIN OFFERING</b>	Lev 2; 6:14-23	Grain, flour, olive oil, incense, bread, or salt with burnt or fellowship offering	Voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God

# Old Testament Sacrifices

NAME	OT TEXTS	ELEMENTS	PURPOSE
FELLOWSHIP OFFERING	Lev 3; 7:11-34	Goat or sheep (no defect); variety of breads	Voluntary; thanksgiving with group meal
SIN OFFERING	Lev 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22	Perfect bull, goat, or lamb; dove/pigeon (poor); 1/10 ephah fine flour for very poor	Mandatory; atones for unintentional sin; confession, forgiveness & cleansing
GUILT OFFERING	Lev 5:14-6:7; 7:1-6	Perfect ram or lamb	Mandatory to atoned for unintentional sin pay 20% fine

# Cain Kills Abel





# Human Sacrifice

Ancient Aztecs of South  
America also practiced this  
horrible ANE custom

# Human Sacrifice



**Aztecs offered an estimated 20,000 people a year to their gods.**



# Ahaz of Judah

- "He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites"  
( 2 Chron. 28:3)



# Oholah & Oholibah of Judah

- "...They committed adultery with their idols; they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them . . . On the very day they sacrificed their children to their idols, they entered my sanctuary and desecrated it. That is what they did in my house"

(Ezek. 23:37, 39).


# MODERN MODERN MOLOCH

Human Sacrifice  
in the  
Armstrong Church

## "Divine Healing Only"

- Countless people have died needlessly as religious leaders refuse to take them to doctors!






**Human  
Sacrifice  
Today**



**ABORTION**

A central image of a man in a white shirt and tie, holding a pen to his chin in a thoughtful pose. This central image is surrounded by several smaller, semi-transparent images: a city skyline in the top left, a close-up of a man's face in the top right, a stack of US dollar bills in the middle right, a computer keyboard in the bottom left, and a light trail from a train in the bottom center.

**QUESTION: IN  
A HIGH TECH  
WORLD, WHAT  
ABOUT JESUS'  
BLOOD SACRIFICE?**

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*  
*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**15** For this reason Christ is the mediator of a **new covenant**, that those who are called may receive **the promised eternal inheritance** — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**16** In the case of **a will**, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,

**17** because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*  
*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**18** This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect **without blood.**

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**19** When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took **the blood** of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**20** He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**21** In the same way, he sprinkled with **the blood** both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*  
*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, *and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9: 15-22*

**22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, *and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

*On the Meaning of the "BLOOD"...*

*Hebrews 9:15-22*

**Without that sacrifice, there is no forgiveness. Our Lord provided that ultimate sacrifice when he went to Calvary and became victorious over death itself *in our behalf!***

# What's So Good About Good Friday?

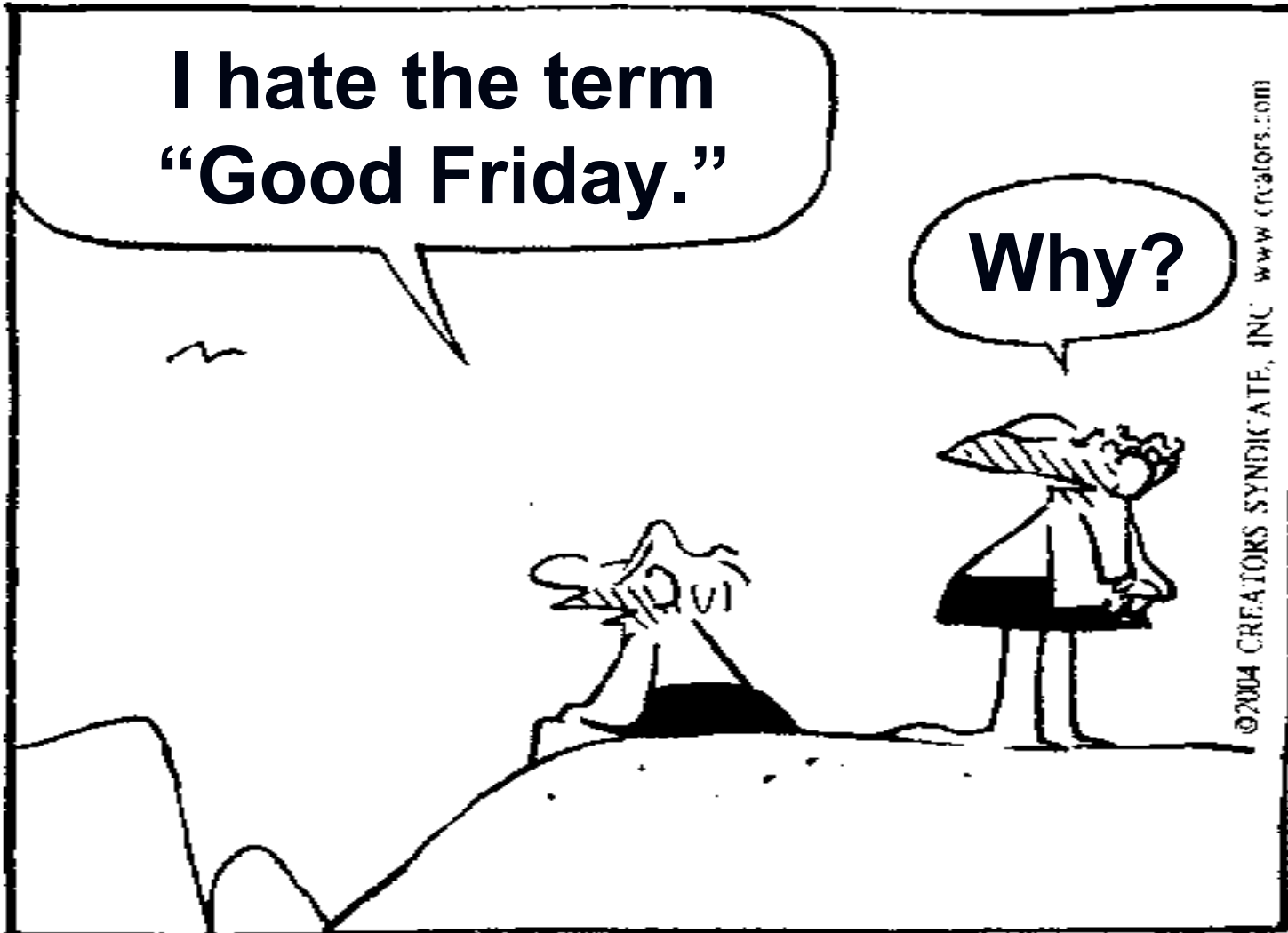


# What does all this mean?

**B.C.**

I hate the term  
"Good Friday."

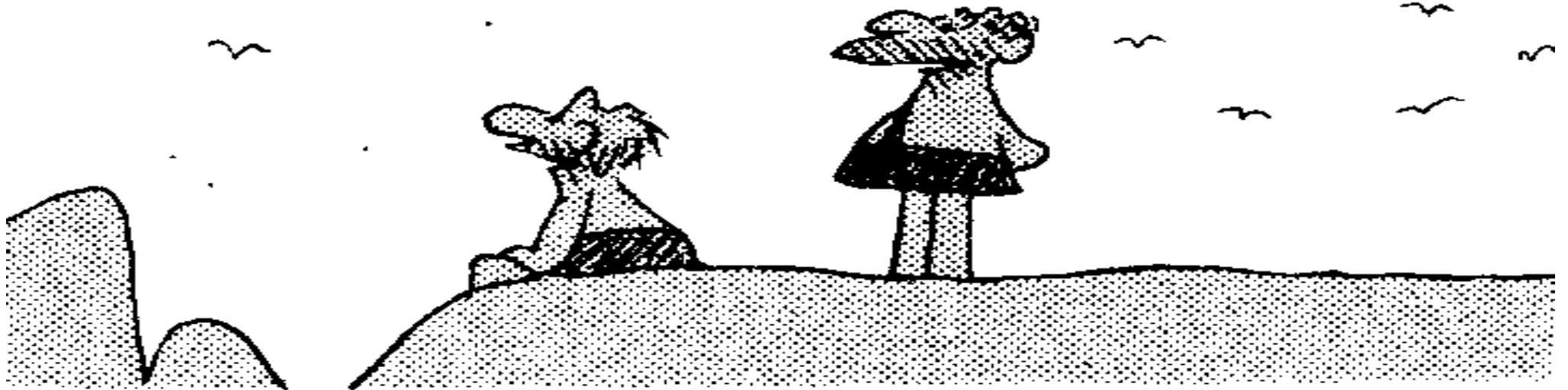
Why?



# What does all this mean?

**My Lord was  
hanged on a tree  
that day.**

**If YOU were going to be  
hanged on that day, and he  
volunteered to take your  
place, how would you feel?**



What does all this mean?

By Johnny Hart

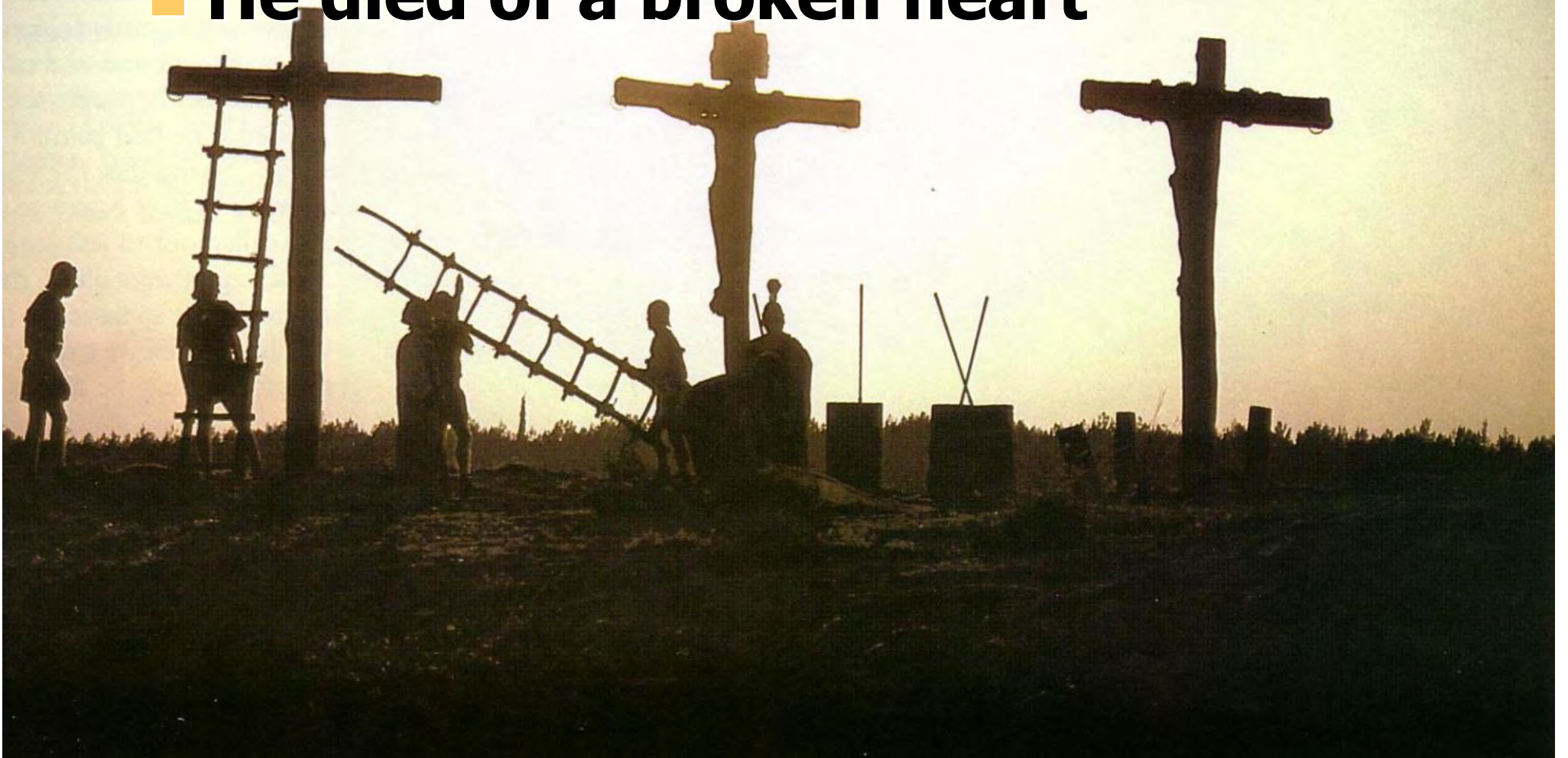


"It is finished"



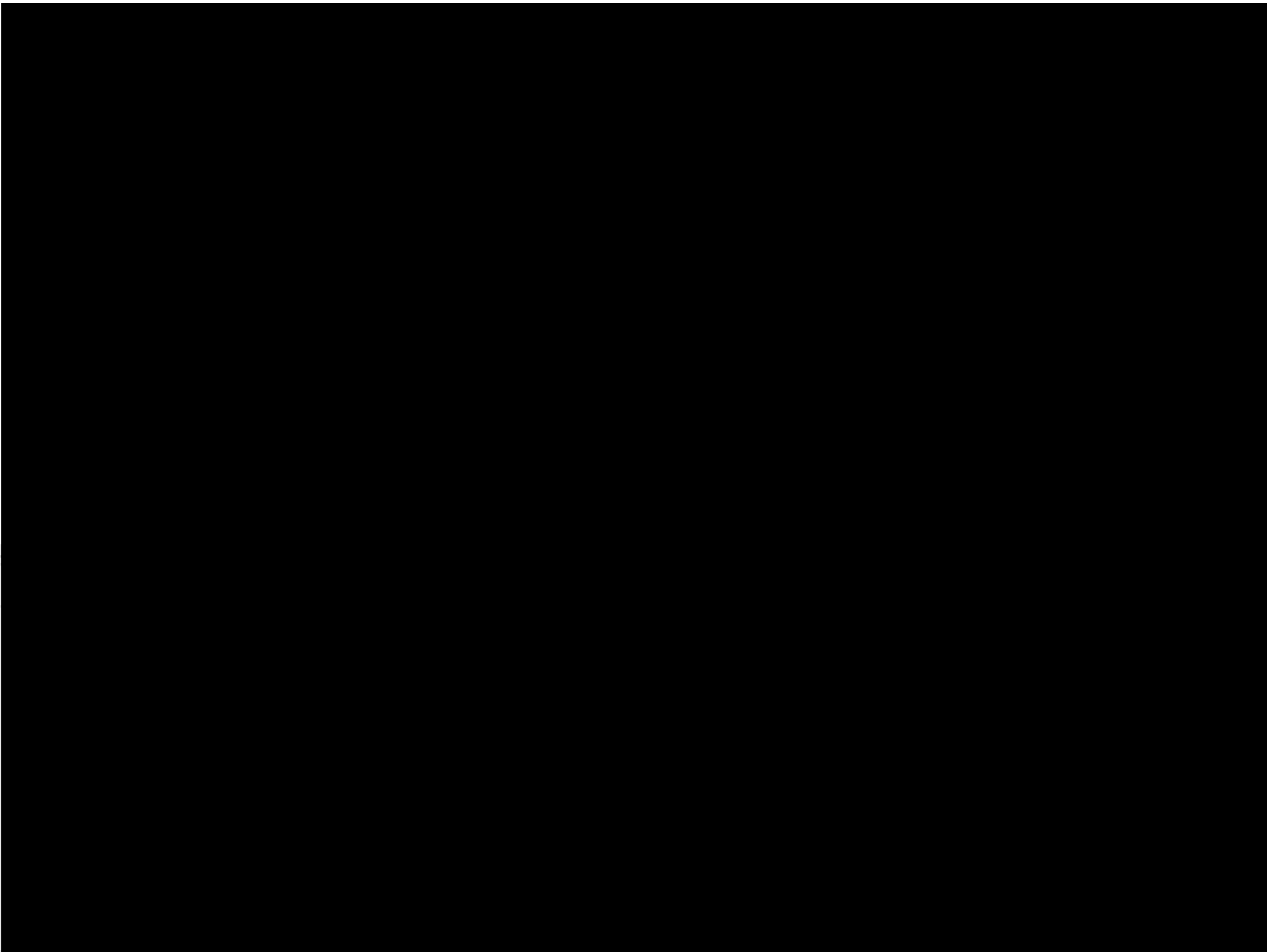
# How was Jesus' death unique?

- **Illegal**
- **He died for our sin**
- **He died of a broken heart**





**How do you now better appreciate  
Christ's death for you?**



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