



Leviticus 4:32-35

Leviticus 3:2

Leviticus 4:4

Leviticus 1:4

Leviticus 17:11

25. God Gave a Way to Cover Sin

While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving God's law from God himself, the Israelites, camped at the foot of the mountain, were already breaking God's law by worshiping an idol. Rather than destroying his people then and there, God provided a way for the people to get rid of their sin. God gave his plan the name *atonement*, which means to cover over. God's plan involved killing an animal instead of the person who sinned.

Killing animals might seem like a harsh way to handle sin, but God wanted to send an important message: Everyone who sins owes God a life. Remember God's hard and fast rule that sin brings death? Someone has to pay for sin. Either we pay with our life, or someone else takes our place. There is no other way.

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
HEBREWS 9:22

26. Jesus Is the Sacrifice We Need

Can the death of an animal really pay for someone's sin? Animals aren't like us at all; plus, how many animals would you have to sacrifice to atone for your sins? Every time you lied to your mom or hit your brother or sister, an animal would have to die. But we don't need to sacrifice animals for each of our sins anymore; God fulfilled his promise and sent his Son, Jesus, to obey the law completely and die as the perfect, spotless Lamb of God.

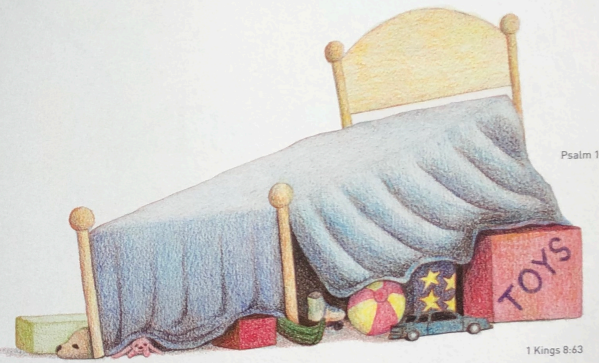
The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is very different from an animal sacrifice. The animal sacrifices covered sin, but did not take it away. They were a little like cleaning your room by shoving everything under the bed. The bed covers the mess but the mess is still there. That is why animals had to be sacrificed again and again and again. But Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was good once and for all. His death restores order to the messy room that is our sin-stained heart.

For it is impossible
for the blood of bulls and
goats to take away sins.

HEBREWS 10:4

"Come now, let us
reason together, says
the LORD: though your
sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as
white as snow."

ISAIAH 1:18a



Psalms 103:10-12

Isaiah 53:5-6

1 Kings 8:63