

Incarnation – Lesson 3

December 21, 2025

Last week we learned that since Jesus *...IS the image of the invisible God* [Col.1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4]...>>

<<He IS the Incarnate glory of God>>**John 1:14**

Therefore, He was our Divine Representative/substitute Who restored the glory of God in us [Gen.1:26] by>>

<<Representing us in His Righteous Life>>**2 Cor. 5:21**

<<and Representing us as our substitute in His atoning death>>**Col. 2:13**

I have added the word *atoning* to explain the theological meaning of Jesus' substitutionary death>>

Why is the word atonement used in relation to Jesus' death>>

The word *atone* has to do with the mending or the restoration of a broken relationship by an acceptable means>>

In the Bible, *atone* refers to the work of God in repairing the broken relationship between Himself and His people because of sin>>

Is. 59:2 *...your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...>>*

<<we were *...dead* [Eph.2:1]...
...helpless [Rom.5:6]...
...God's enemies [Rom.5:10]...
...without God in the world [Eph.2:12]...

Therefore, <<because God is JUST, He **must** punish the the guilty>>

Ex 34:7 *...[God] will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...>>*

Ez. 18:4 *...the soul who sins shall die* [Gen.2:27] ...>>

But God made a promise in **Gen.1:26** >>

And because God is faithful, He **must** restore His guilty people>>

2 Tim 2:13 *...[God] remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself...>>*

God remains both just and faithful in the atoning substitutionary death of Jesus>>

And this brings us to our subject>>

In the atoning death of Jesus, the spiritual breach between God and His people is repaired>>

The way God achieves this is 1st seen in **Gen.3:21**>>

<<through the shedding of the blood of an innocent in the place of the guilty>>

We also see this spiritual principle>>

<<**Gen.22**>>

<<**Ex. 12:13** ...when I see the blood [the punishment of an innocent], I will pass over [restore] you...>>

In both examples, the shedding of blood was central for restoration>>

Heb 9:22 ...without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The central element of atonement is described in the terms>>

<<propitiation/expiation>>

Remember in **Is.59:2** we saw that our sins separated us from any fellowship with God>>

Therefore, in order for us to be restored to God, our guilt **must** be punished because God is just>>

But if we are punished, we will experience eternal death>>

To solve this problem, God sends the only a Man Who is spiritually qualified in authority and character>>

<<to satisfy His justice by shedding His blood for us>>

Therefore, in keeping with His faithfulness>>

<<God ...and sent His Son to be the propitiation [to be punished] for our sins [**1John 4:10**]...>>

As a result, our guilt is expiated>>

Lev 16:10 ...the goat [is] used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

<<in order to ...deliver us from the wrath to come...>>**1 Thess.1:10**

Expiation>>

Expiation is the fruit of propitiation>>

<<having to do with the removal of our guilt>>

Because Jesus fully satisfied the justice of God>>

<<God justly removed the guilt of our sin from us>>

Col. 2:13...*having forgiven us all our transgressions...*>>

Ps 103:12 ...*as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

God declared us ...*not guilty*...>>

Next week we will speak about the result of Jesus' atoning death>>