

2nd of April 2017

God's chosen people – Pt 3 Israel were required to obey the law.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The OT law provided animal sacrifice when a person disobeyed the statutes.

"When a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit...and that person be guilty; Then they shall confess their sin which they have done...let the trespass be recompensed unto the Lord, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him" (Num.5: 6-8). See also Ex.30: 10 & Lev.16: 34)

However, as Saul found out – when a man's heart is not right with God, even though God gave him another heart (1Sam.19: 9), and Saul confessed his sin (1Sam.15: 24, 25), God was asking for something more than sacrifice (1Sam.15: 22 – that was obedience). Hence our next point.

2. In the OT a man was made righteous when he was obedient to the law.

"And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God...And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments" (Deut.6: 24 & 25).

The law proved that all are under sin, "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom.3: 10), so how was a man in the OT made righteous (right standing) before God if all have sinned? In the OT when a man does what our first point says and confessed his sin and the priest makes an atonement according to the law, then he was made righteous. As was Zacharias and Elisabeth in Luke 1: 6.

3. In the OT when a man sinned & blessed themselves God would blot out their name from under heaven.

"And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart...the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven" (Deut.29: 19, 20).

In this example the man's heart is not right with God (Ps.78: 37), he has not acknowledged his sin, and he sees no need for a sacrifice or offering for his iniquity, and therefore God blots his name out from under heaven.

Additional comments on our three points.

As a nation the children of Israel received the law which included God's commandments, statutes and judgments, and sacrifices for when they sinned, and yet they sacrificed unto devils, and not to God (Deut.32: 17) and so "he abhorred them" (verse 19), and hid his face from them "for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith" (verse 20).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Today the children of Israel that claim to have a knowledge of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who read the Torah because they know God gave **those words** to Moses, cannot offer animal sacrifices for the atonement of their sins (Ex.30: 10).

Question to think about.

Since the perfect one-off sacrifice was given by God (His only begotten Son) and He was resurrected from the dead, the Jews have had no temple to offer a sacrifice – how can they be obedient to the sacrificial requirements in the Torah today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1Sam 15: 22).

Obedience to God today is shown when we receive, believe and call on the name of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, then a person is circumcised in his heart, he is a child of God, no longer justified by the works of the law "but by the faith of Jesus Christ" (Gal.2: 16)...that is obedience to the law.