

## **The Wednesday Word, October 28, 2020 : Where can we find Blood Atonement?**

The following is a piece I recently discovered in an old tract. I hope you enjoy it.

At Easter time, some many years ago, a “Mission to the Jews” was held in San Francisco. One evening, the meeting was thrown open for discussion and Jewish folk were welcomed to ask questions or to give their testimonies.

One old Gentleman stood and said: “This is Passover week my Jewish brethren, and as I sat here, I was thinking how you will be observing it. You will have put away leaven from your houses; you will eat the ‘motsah’ (unleavened wafers) and the roasted lamb. You will attend the synagogue services and carry out the ritual and directions of the Talmud. However, you will leave out that which Jehovah requires most of all. He did not say, ‘When I see the leaven put away, or when I see you eat the motsah or go the synagogue; but His word was, ‘When I see the blood I will pass over you.’ Ah, my brethren, you can substitute nothing for this. You must have blood!”

After a moment’s pause, the old man went on as follows: “I was born in Palestine, nearly seventy years ago. As a child, I was taught to read the Law and the Prophets. I attended the synagogue and learned Hebrew from the rabbis. At first I believed what I was told, that ours was the true and only religion, but as I grew older and studied the Law more intently, I was struck by the place the blood had in all the ceremonies outlined there, and equally struck by its utter absence in the ritual in which I was brought up.

“Again and again, I read Exodus 12 and Leviticus 16 and 17, and was struck by the place the blood held there. Day and night one verse would ring in my ears. ‘It is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul!’ I knew I had broken the law. I needed atonement.

“In my distress, at last, I opened my heart to a learned and venerable rabbi. He told me that God was angry with His people. Jerusalem was in the hands of the Gentiles, the temple was destroyed, and a Muslim mosque was reared in its place. The only spot of earth where we dare shed the blood of sacrifice, in accordance with Deuteronomy 12, was desecrated, and our nation scattered. That was why there was no blood. God had Himself closed the way to carry out the solemn service of the great Day of Atonement. Now, we must turn to the Talmud, and rest on its instruction, and trust in the mercy of God and the merits of the fathers.

“I tried to be satisfied but could not. Something seemed to say that the law was unaltered, even though our temple was destroyed. Nothing else but blood could atone for the soul. We dared not shed blood for atonement elsewhere than in the place the Lord had chosen. Then we were left without an atonement at all!

“This thought filled me with horror. In my distress, I consulted many other rabbis. I had but one great question ... Where can I find the blood of atonement?

“I was over thirty years of age when I left Palestine and came to Constantinople, with my still unanswered question and my soul exceedingly troubled about my sins. One night I was walking down one of the narrow streets of that city, when I saw a sign telling of a meeting for

Jews. Curiosity led me to open the door and go in. Just as I took a seat, I heard a man say, 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.' It was my first introduction to Christianity, but I listened breathlessly as the speaker told how God had declared that 'without shedding of blood is no remission;' but that He had given His only begotten Son, the Lamb of God, to die, and all who trusted in His blood were forgiven all their iniquities. This was the Messiah of Isaiah 53 and the Sufferer of Psalm 22. Ah, my brethren, I had found the blood of atonement at last! I trusted it, and now I love to read the New Testament and see how all the shadows of the law are fulfilled in Jesus. His blood has been shed for sinners. It has satisfied God, and it is the only means of salvation for either Jew or Gentile."

And that's the Gospel Truth!